

THE DERBY INFORMER

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Veterans' Memorial will tell local stories

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The initial concrete was poured on the Derby Veterans' Memorial this week, putting it on schedule for the Nov. 11 dedication. The committee has sold 191 bricks which will be engraved with local veterans' names and installed along the memorial walk. The memorial features five stations – representing all five branches of the Armed Forces – with benches and patriotic flags at each along the half-mile stretch of the Hike and Bike Path in Garrett Park.

After plans for the memorial were announced earlier this year, the committee utilized for the project sold 191 bricks at \$100 each. To meet the memorial's initial budget, the committee had set a goal of selling 100 bricks.

"The response was excellent," said Theresa Hearn, executive director of the Derby Community Foundation, which is serving as custodian of the funds for the project.

The first 191 will be placed at the memorial stations in time for this year's Veterans' Day dedication at 2 p.m. After working with the project, the group has realized it must set an Aug. 1 deadline for each year. That allows the process, which includes taking the order, proofing the template and allowing time for the brick company to engrave each.

"We've been very meticulous that names are spelled correctly and military abbreviations are correct," Hearn said.

Another 10 have already been sold for next year. They now cost \$120 each.



Photos by Linda Stinnett
Concrete donated by Andale Ready-Mix was poured on Sept. 21, at Garrett Park, to form the bases of the Veterans' Memorial. Shown above left is the truck, which advertises the fact the company actively supports the Wounded Warrior Project through all concrete sales. At right, city employees work under the supervision of Mike Rodriguez, of Rodriguez Flatwork, to create the bases for the memorial stations. From left are Bob Loffland, Rodriguez, Keven Pappan, Victor Loera and Wes Moore.



"We have a huge military contingent and I'm sure we've just touched the tip of the iceberg in selling bricks," she said.

The committee has also sold the six benches, which will have plaques on them recognizing the military veteran in whose honor they were purchased.

The memorial will be enhanced with additional features in the future, Hearn said, and the committee will continue to look at new ideas for those enhancements.

"We'll only be limited by people's imagination," she said.

In the effort to make sure the bricks are done correctly, Hearn has talked to nearly every person purchasing a brick. She has been inspired by what she has heard.

Veteran's Memorial

Commercial donors, to date

Andale Concrete – All concrete
Rodriguez Flatwork – Supervision and assistance for city crews on concrete work, plus provide stain and stamps for the texturizing of the concrete.

Phillips Southern Electric – Electrical conduit, trenching and outlets for the poles.

City of Derby – \$2,500 ACE Grant, site preparation, work with concrete, electrical conductors, connections to electric service and many other items in partnership with donors.

Obelisks

A monument/obelisk will be installed at each station. The obelisk has been purchased from Yoder Ornamentals and Danielle Stephen, a muralist, will paint the concrete to look like a bronze.

Construction timeline

All hardscape installed before bricks delivered, anticipated Oct. 14. Bricks to be installed shortly after, followed by landscaping.

"For the next several weeks, work will be transforming and taking shape," said Robert Mendoza, director of city public works. "It will really be something when we're done."

How to participate

Bricks can be purchased in honor or memory of honorably discharged military veterans or active-duty members in good standing. For additional information contact the Derby Community Foundation at P.O. Box 372, Derby, Kan. 67037; call 788-9815; go to www.derbycf.org; or email admin@derbycf.org.

"Every brick represents more than 191 bricks. It's a story," she said. "When you look at the name, it's 191 stories."