



MCDC Grant Request – Letter of Inquiry

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Name: City of McKinney Armed Services Memorial Board _____ EIN: 35-2325793 _____

Mailing Address: PROS Office 1611 North Stonebridge Dr. _____

City: McKinney _____ ST: Texas _____ Zip: 75071 _____

Phone: _972-547-7330 _____ Fax: _____ Email: mlee@mckinneytexas.org _____

Website: www.mckinneytexas.org _____

Primary Contact: Colin Kimball _____ Title: Vice Chairman _____

Phone: 281-770-0220 _____ Email: colinkimball@live.com _____

(Check one)

- X Project Grant Request
- Promotional Activity or Community Event Grant Request

Project Title: Gold Star Family Memorial _____ **Total Amount Requested:**
\$50,000 plus engineering, construction, and landscaping TBD _____

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (add an additional page if needed)

The Armed Services Memorial Board is proposing to erect a memorial to honor the Gold Star Families upon the grounds of the existing Collin County Veterans Memorial. Gold Star Families are those whom have lost a son or daughter in the service of one of our Nation's Armed Services during wartime. Our existing Veterans Memorial pays homage to 366 men and one woman from Collin County who died while serving our nation in one of the five branches of the Armed Services. The purpose of the Gold Star Memorial is to pay homage to the parents, siblings, grandparents, spouses and extended family of the those who's names are listed on our Veterans Memorial to reinforce within the minds of the public that the sacrifice made by those who serve in the military are also borne by the families that are left behind. Currently we propose to install a Gold Star Memorial that has been designed and provided by the Herschel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation. Herschel "Woody" Williams, a Marine Veteran, is the only living Medal of Honor Recipient remaining from the Battle of Iwo Jima in WWII and has created his foundation to honor the Gold Star Families. The goal of his foundation is to install one of these memorials in each of the 50 states. Currently, McKinney is in the lead to be the first city in Texas to have one of these memorials installed. The Gold Star Memorial is made of four Black Granite slabs and is proposed to be located on the grounds of the existing Veterans Memorial by being placed in such a manner to complement the existing memorial. Photographs and illustrations are laser etched onto each of the four granite panels symbolizing our community, the families left behind, patriotism and the sacrifice of our military men and women. We will customize the laser etchings on our memorial to represent Collin County and the families who lost sons and daughters while in service to our nation. In addition to installing the memorial, we would also like to install eight flag poles, along with necessary lighting, at the far end of the Veterans Park. The flag poles will fly the United States, Texas, Army, Marine, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and POW/MIA Flag. This will help further define the status of the park as the Veterans Park in the public eye. The cost of acquiring the Memorial is currently estimated at \$50,000. We are currently in consultation with a landscape architect who is working up a proposal that can be used to better define the estimated construction costs and be used to solicit proposals from construction contractors. Accordingly, the total project cost estimate is not available at this date as the scope of work has not been completely defined. We expect to have a cost estimate by late December. The Gold Star Memorial is proposed to be installed on City owned property so no land acquisition is necessary. Gold Star parents have told us that the existing Veterans Memorial is a place of healing for them. Accordingly, we would like to further reinforce that sense of healing by honoring them, and at the same time, remind the public that the sacrifices borne by our military on the battlefield are also shouldered by the families at home. A visual representation of one of the Gold Star Memorials that has been erected in another state is provided. As previously stated, we will modify three of the laser etchings on the panels. Two of the proposed panel images are also provided for reference. The image for the "Homeland" panel that represents our community panel is still in design.



Front side of memorial to face existing Veterans Memorial. Note "Mothers and Fathers" will be replaced with "Families."



Backside view of an existing memorial. We plan on changing the images on the Homeland, Family, and Sacrifice Panel.



Proposed "Family" Panel Image representing the Gold Star family members looking at the names of their loved one. The design takes the shape of a heart.



Proposed "Sacrifice" Panel image representing the faces of some of our fallen from WWI to the war on Terror who are listed on the Veterans memorial. This will be the only panel in which one can see the faces of individuals.

The Homeland panel is still in development but will portray citizens honoring our Gold Star families and fallen warriors.

The Patriot Panel will not be changed and will portray the raising of the flag on Iwo Jima to pay tribute to Hershel "Woody" Williams who's foundation is creating this monument.



McKinney Community Development Corporation

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