

# HIGHLANDS RANCH VETERANS MONUMENT



## Story of the Monument

The first chapter of the Highlands Ranch Veterans Monument story begins in 2006 with a vision of people from the same community who were once strangers, now friends united in a common cause. These people, after reading of the death of Army Staff Sergeant Christopher Falkel, the first Highlands Ranch resident killed in action, wanted to pay tribute to Chris' sacrifice and to the sacrifice of his fellow veterans as well as active military members. They set out, sharing their goal to create a local veterans monument.

Chapter two begins August 8, 2006, exactly one year after Chris Falkel's death. Highlands Ranch Veterans Monument (HRVM) Committee members and community leaders came together at an event that kicked off the HRVM fundraising program. Today the work continues to plan and raise \$200,000 for the monument to be built in Civic Green Park near the entrance to the Highlands Ranch Library.

Chapter three: In 2007, the Highlands Ranch Metro District Board of Directors agreed to advance funding for the monument, up to \$140,000, so the monument construction could begin in Civic Green Park as fundraising continued. The funding advance would be repaid as Dedication Tiles were sold, and as fundraising reached the goal.

The fourth chapter opens July 1, 2008 when the community celebrated with a ceremonial groundbreaking event at the monument site. Today design details are being reviewed, and work on the monument is expected to start within the coming months.

The final chapter will begin the day the monument is dedicated and when people of all ages can learn about their friends' and family members' sacrifices and service to our nation with a visit to a monument dedicated to sharing that history.

Tax-deductible Dedication Tiles are being sold and donations are welcome. Dedication Tiles, which will be installed on the monument walls, may be purchased online, and are available in two sizes. Details are available at [www.hrvets.org](http://www.hrvets.org), or by contacting Marsha Sliter at 720-240-4931, or at [mmliter@highlandsranch.org](mailto:mmliter@highlandsranch.org).