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- Representative Melissa Hortman, Vice Chair, Legislative Coordinating Commission, rep.melissa.hortman@house.mn
- Senator Foung Hawj, Chair, Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee, <u>sen.foung.hawj@senate.mn</u>
- Senator Justin Eichorn, Ranking Minority Member,
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- Representative Joe McDonald, GOP Co-Chair, House Legacy Finance Committee, rep.joe.mcdonald@house.mn.gov
- Representative Samantha Vang, DFL Co-Chair, House Legacy Finance Committee, rep.samantha.vang@house.mn.gov
- Sarah Hernandez, Portfolio Supervisor, sarah.hernandez@state.mn.us
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- Mary Schmidt, Enterprise Grants Managing Director,
 Department of Administration, mary.schmidt@state.mn.us

<u>From</u>: Craig Schultz, Chairman Kanabec Veterans Memorial and Erica Bliss, Kanabec County Veteran Service Officer

<u>SUBJ</u>: Annual Legacy Grant Report for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024) as required by Minnesota Statutes 129D. 17 and section 3.303, Subd. 10

I. Kanabec Veterans Memorial Flag Plaza Project
The grant was for the purchase of custom flag poles, US military branch flags and US Flags. The flag poles highlight a concrete plaza which is the home to eight (8) granite Honor Walls. The space allows for expansion, and it is likely three (3) more Honor Walls will be placed in the Spring of 2025. The location of the Kanabec County Veterans Memorial is: 203 Barker St, Mora MN 55051



II. Contact information for funding recipient

- Kanabec Veterans Memorial
 C/O American Legion Post #201, PO Box 44 Mora MN
- Kanabec County Veteran Services, CVSO Erica Bliss (320-679-6380), erica.bliss@co.kanabec.mn.us)
- Kanabec County Veteran Services Webpage:
 https://www.kanabeccounty.org/departments/vetera
 n memorial.php
- Members of Kanabec Veteran Memorial Board:

i. Chairman: Craig Schultz

ii. Vice Chair: Kenneth Burggraff

iii. Treasurer: Alan Skramstad

iv. Post 201 Commander: Greg Ardner

v. Historian: Walt Olen

vi. Additional Membership: Dennis McNally,

John Perry, Mike Boyce, Paul Hoppe, Rick

Martens

https://kanabecveterans.org/ For financials



III. Amount of Grant Funding

The total ACHF grant funding for the project was \$10,000.

The cost of the custom flag poles (1-55' ft USA, 6-35' ft military branch) and installation was \$15,000. The Arts & Cultural Heritage Grant provided \$7500. A match was made by Kanabec County for \$7500.

The cost of the outdoor USA flags (3 each) and 6 military branch flags (3 each) cost \$2556.08. The Arts & Cultural Heritage Grant provided \$2500.

IV. Amount & Source of Additional Funding

The Kanabec Veteran Memorial committee is very grateful for the ACGHF grant of \$10,000. These funds allowed us to kick off the project earlier then expected. The flag plaza is the highlight of the memorial and easily seen from both Hwy 65 and Hwy 23. The project was completed far ahead of schedule. On-going costs include: heat/water/sewer and utilities to the memorial building. It is the hope of the Veteran Memorial Committee that additional Honor Walls will be placed in the future. The outdoor plaza was designed for



expansion. Each granite honor wall contains the names of 90 veterans. Veterans or family members pay \$300 to have their name added to an honor wall. Up to this time, the honor walls have paid for themselves and we will continue to charge a fee in order to offset the cost to the Veteran Memorial.

The total cost of the Memorial Flag plaza, to include the granite honor walls is \$172,572 thus far. Another outdoor highlight to the Kanabec Veteran Memorial is a rebuilt Huey helicopter. The helicopter was restored after originally being shot down in Vietnam. The Huey is positioned on a podium in the air. Beneath the Huey is a beautiful bronze display detailing how the story of SP4 Stephen Schumacher from Minnesota. He was a flight medic on a crew that was shot down in Vietnam. SP4 Schumacher and another solider were killed. The family of SP4 Schumacher was present at the dedication of the Veteran Memorial.

Additional expenses for the Veteran Memorial project are currently at \$72, 985 for the building which includes a static military display, offices and a meeting space. The static display consists of military memorabilia and uniforms of Kanabec County veterans or family. These



personal items tell the stories of our military men and women from most periods of war. The static display is currently open on the weekends and at request for personal tours. This entire project was 100% grant and donation funded.

V. Duration of the Project

The Project and planning began in December 2021. As of this report the entire Kanabec Veteran Memorial Project is complete. The flags poles are installed and flying high. The concrete plaza is home to a POW/KIA honor wall, 7 granite honor walls with over 630 names of veterans, and a bronze kneeling statue soldier. A Huey flies high for all to see.

VI. Number of Full-time equivalents funded under the project

 No funds were used for personnel salaries, benefits or administrative costs

VII. Direct Expenses and Administrative Costs of the Project

 The total direct expenses of the flag pole project was \$26,753. These costs include the custom flag poles, installation costs and flags. The County of Kanabec



submitted and was reimbursed the cost of \$10,000 as requested in the grant application.

 The award directly contributed to the cost of the custom flag poles and flags.

VIII. Proposed and Actual Measured Incomes

A. <u>Proposed Outcomes Achieved</u>:

The proposed outcomes of the Veterans Memorial flag project is an overwhelming positive response from the community. The Veterans Memorial is in a high-traffic area and well seen from two MN State highways. The flags draw our visitors in due to the height at which they fly. They direct visitors to the site and celebrate patriotism and love for country. We hope that visitors will learn more about those who have served our country in the US military. We anticipate a stronger sense of community and pride for our service men and women.

B. Actual Outcomes & Evaluation of Project

The response has been overwhelming since the addition of the flag plaza at the Veteran Memorial site. We have seen an increase in the number of



honor blocks that are being purchased. The community is very excited for the memorial and honoring their beloved veterans. The Kanabec Veteran Memorial is truly a highlight to the City of Mora, County of Kanabec.

V. Proposed Outcomes Achieved

We were able to achieve the proposed outcomes regarding attendance. Over 500 attendees were present at the dedication of the Veteran Memorial on Sunday September 8, 2024. Since the construction and completion of the flag plaza with memorial/honor walls daily visitation on average is 15-20 persons. These visits increase on weekends and during warm weather. Youth and church groups have received special tours of the memorial.

The feedback from the community and visitors has been overwhelmingly positive.

See the next few pages of photos to include the Kanabec Veteran Memorial flag plaza, Huey display and Veteran Memorial building.







Installation of flag poles and raising of flags







Memorial Dedication

Kanabec Veterans Memorial Park Dedication

Sunday, September 8, 2024 ~ 1:00PM







Huey Display and Tribute