

September 1, 2011

Markley Family Gives \$150,000 to Complete Veterans Plaza Construction

The Pat and Gene Markley Fund, a Donor Advised fund of the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, is providing \$150,000 in support to complete the Veterans Plaza of Northern Colorado.

As a successful businessman leading Markley Motors in Fort Collins, Gene, and his late wife, Patty, saw an opportunity to do something positive for the community. In 1993, they established a Donor Advised fund and helped advance the Community Foundation's impact. Patty, a dedicated community volunteer for various organizations, passed away in May 2006. Gene now works with his children, Doug and Ann, to advise the fund and recommend grants. Gene, a veteran who served in Europe during World War II explains, "I got my inspiration from my father. My dad was very philanthropic and community-minded."

"We are pleased the Markley family is able to use their fund at the Community Foundation to honor the Veterans of Northern Colorado while contributing to something that is personally important to their family," said Ray Caraway, president of the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado.

The Veterans Plaza, an initiative of the Community Foundation, is dedicated to military veterans with ties to Northern Colorado. The three-acre Plaza is located at Spring Canyon Community Park near the foothills of Fort Collins. The Plaza's groundbreaking took place in February 2011 and the construction is expected to be completed in time for a November 13 ceremony at which a statue conveying the story of generations of sacrifice will be dedicated.

Diggs Brown, a Special Forces (Green Beret) Officer in the United States Army National Guard and a member of the Veterans Plaza Committee says, "The Veterans Plaza initiative has unearthed a tremendous wave of patriotism and support from Northern Colorado residents. This significant gift leaves a legacy that positively impacts Northern Colorado and makes our region's vision come to life. We are extremely thankful for the support of the Markley family."

To learn more about the Veterans Plaza, visit www.VeteransPlazaNoCo.org or visit the site located at the west end of Horsetooth Road between Taft Hill Road and Overland Trail in Fort Collins.