

We are here tonight representing the Anthony American Legion Auxiliary. We want to tell you about the veteran's banner project. Our group is happy to see banner brackets in place on our town's utility poles up and down main street. Our group has wanted to pursue the banner project which has been requested by the public and organizations for several years and feel with the banner poles in place, it is the perfect time to bring our project to fruition with the city/commissioner's approval. The Hometown Heroes Veterans Banner Project is a way to honor individual military veterans and current active-duty service members by recognizing them on picture pole banners hung on our main thoroughfare. The banners are more than names and pictures, they are a way of preserving local history and honoring people who serve/served so valiantly for our country. Each banner will include the individual veteran's photo, name, rank, branch, years of service and any special commendations. The funding for this project will come from public donations and families purchasing a banner in honor of their special veteran or active service member.

We are requesting the city participate with us on this project. We ask for in-kind help on the project. We will furnish the banners for the city to hang at the appropriate time on the banner brackets currently in place. We have checked with the city administrator on the size and pole requirements and will be following those specifications. We ask for the city to hang, remove, and store the banners. If the city cannot store the banners, the chamber of commerce will help us with a storage place accessible to the city crew. We ask that the city crew remove a banner when it is no longer in good condition, notify us and we will pick the banner up. We will return the banner to the family. The overall nature of the City's support is maintenance and physical services. There will not be any special request as to the order for the banners to hang on the poles. We request the banners be displayed twice a year – Memorial Day and Veterans Day. We suggest the banners be in place for Veterans Day – Nov. 11th by the first week in November and remain in place until the Monday after Thanksgiving – depending on the work schedule of the city linemen. We ask the banners to be hung for a week prior to Memorial Day and thru June 14, flag day. These are suggested dates. We are respectful of the work schedule of the city electrical department. We ask the city to include the banners on their city insurance for vandalism, theft, and destruction from storms if possible. The overall nature of the Anthony American Legion support is administrative coordination, promotion, and project management. We will be reaching out to Anthony Pride, Anthony Chamber of Commerce, D.A.R. and the American Legion organization to help us to promote this project and for assistance for any part of the process we are not able to handle.

We will be taking orders once you give us your approval. We anticipate there will be at least 20 banners. Our estimate is based on those that have shown prior interest when this project has been discussed. If we reach maximum capacity – which would be wonderful – we will keep a list of interested people to contact when there is pole space available. The banners will be displayed if they are in good condition but once the banner needs to be removed, a new banner will need to be paid for. The first opportunity will be given to the current banner sponsor. If the banner sponsorship is not renewed, we will notify the first person on our waiting list about the opportunity to sponsor a veteran.

We hope this gives you a good overview of our plans. Once we have your approval, we will complete our order form. We appreciate our city staff and commissioners as it takes all of us to work together for this project to be successful.