



THE CHARTERS OF FREEDOM

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE • UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION • BILL OF RIGHTS



Our Founding Fathers authored the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. These three founding documents are known as 'The Charters of Freedom'.

These three documents declare:

- We are an independent people;
- We are governed as a Democratic Republic;
- We are secure in our freedom and rights as citizens of the United States of America.

Foundation Forward is an educational, nonprofit organization that builds Charters of Freedom settings in communities across the country. These settings are replicas of the displays of our founding documents as seen in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. These settings are built to last 300-500 years.

Our Mission is to teach and preserve American history and civics, so all will know how our government is meant to serve and protect We the People.



Grade school children are taking field trips to their local Charters of Freedom setting to learn about American history and civics. These field trips are remarkable life experiences for our young future leaders and they truly love them!

chartersoffreedom.com



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OUR STORY

It all started in the Fall of 2011 when Vance and Mary Jo Patterson were in Washington, D.C. They decided to go to the National Archives because they had never seen the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

Vance recalls, "Seeing something our Founding Fathers had actually penned and then seeing their signatures, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Rutledge, Wilson, and the others, I just got goosebumps. And, then when we moved over to see the Constitution and those three words, We the People, I got a lump in my throat. I looked over at Mary Jo and she had tears in her eyes. It was, really, an emotional experience for us."

The next year, back home in western North Carolina, Vance was thinking about the experience and the thought came to him, "What if I could duplicate that experience we had in Washington when we saw the founding documents for the first time? What if I could bring that experience back to the citizens of Burke County?"

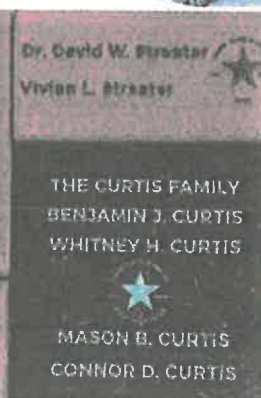
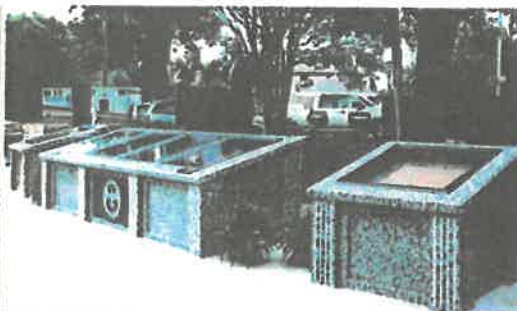
Two years later, on July 2, 2014, Vance and Mary Jo gifted and dedicated the first Charters of Freedom setting outside of Washington, D.C. to the children, veterans, and citizens of Burke County, on the Historic Courthouse green in downtown Morganton, NC. This was only the beginning.

In 2013, the Pattersons started Foundation Forward, Inc. a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational project to promote civics education and preserve American history. Over 30 settings have been dedicated across the country. Locations include North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Nebraska, South Dakota, and as far west as Nevada.

The long-term goal is to place Charters of Freedom settings in as many communities as possible over the next 10 years.



Founder Vance Patterson with World War II veteran Norman Mears in Brunswick County



Contact us for
more information,
or to get involved!

Foundation Forward, Inc.
227 Main Street West
Valdese, NC 28690

828-522-1400
info@chartersoffreedom.com
chartersoffreedom.com

chartersoffreedom.com

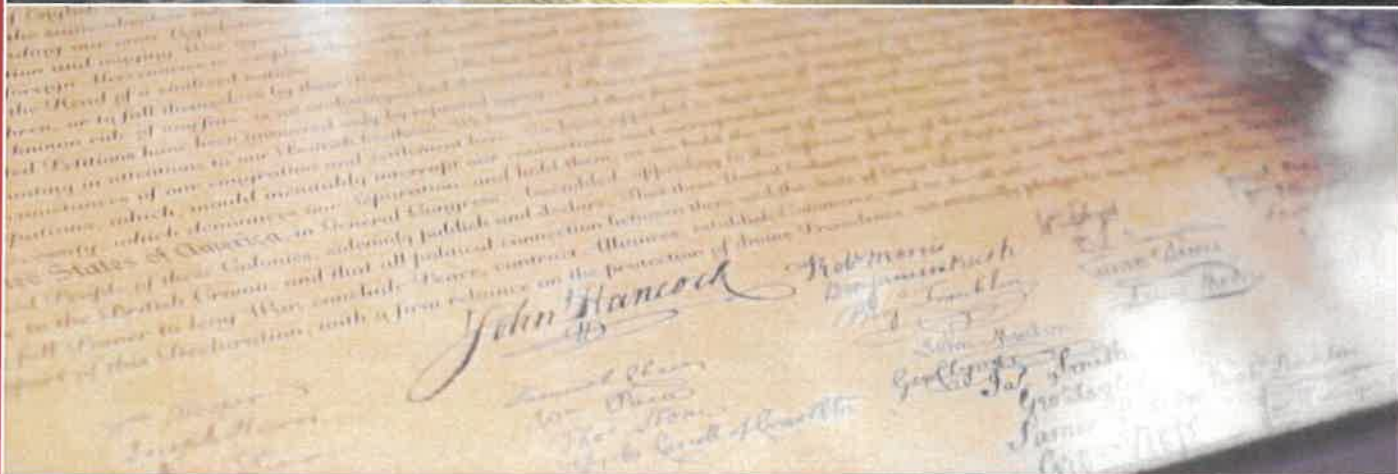


ACCESS ★ EDUCATION ★ COMMUNITY



THE CHARTERS OF FREEDOM

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ★ UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION ★ BILL OF RIGHTS



Foundation Forward, Inc.

An Educational Nonprofit 501(c)(2) Organization

Charters of Freedom Settings



Burke County #1, Morganton, North Carolina

First Charters of Freedom setting outside of Washington, D.C.
Polished Granite. Dedicated July 2, 2014



Burke County #2, Valdese, North Carolina

First setting to include Civil Rights Amendments
Foundation Forward Education Park
Dedicated May 20, 2022



Cherokee County, Murphy, North Carolina

Polished Granite
Dedicated September 17, 2014



Caldwell County, Lenoir, North Carolina

Local Brick with Cast Stone Cap and Chambers
Dedicated July 3, 2019



Cabarrus County #1, Harrisburg, North Carolina

Cast Stone Fascia with Cast Stone Cap and Chambers
Dedicated November 11, 2019



Henderson County, Hendersonville, North Carolina

Special Stone Fascia with Cast Stone Cap and Chambers
Dedicated September 19, 2018

Where history meets the future.

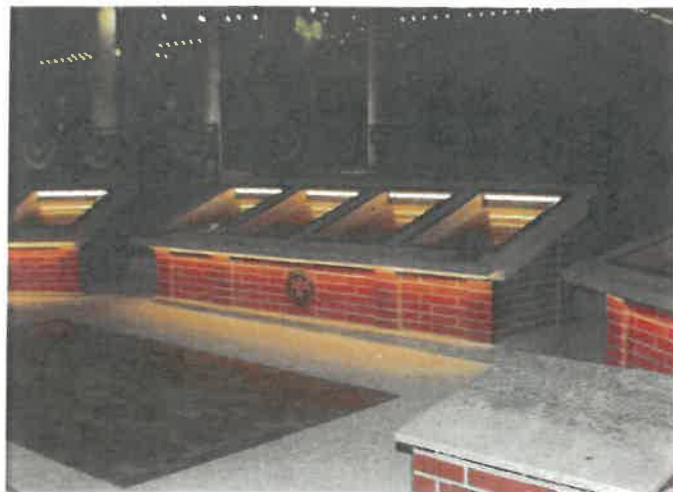
Foundation Forward Inc.

An Educational, Nonprofit, 501(c)(3) Organization

Charters of Freedom Settings



Halifax County, Halifax, North Carolina
Local Brick with Cast Stone Cap and Chambers With Halifax
Resolves on the far left. Dedicated April 12, 2019



Hamilton County, Noblesville, Indiana
Local Brick with Indiana Limestone Cap and Chambers;
Internally lighted with Donor Pedestals.
Dedicated September 28, 2019



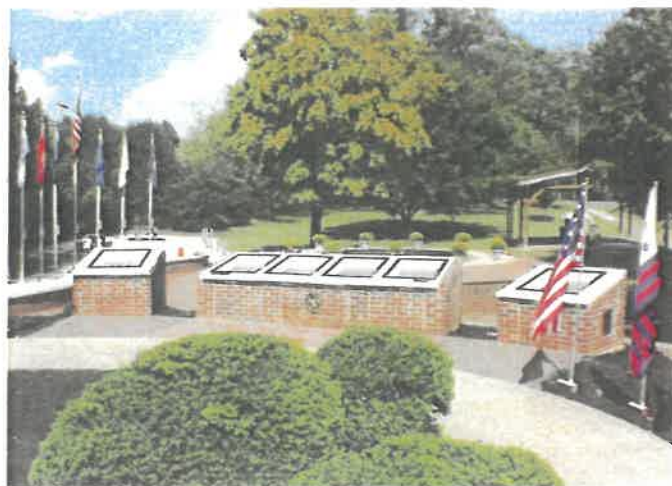
Kenton County, Crescent Springs, Kentucky
Formed and Marble-Dyed Concrete
Completed Fall 2021



Howard County, Kokomo, Indiana
Indiana Limestone Setting
Dedicated September 26, 2015



Ashe County, Jefferson, North Carolina
Local Brick with Cast Stone Cap and Chambers
Dedicated November 5, 2018



Polk County, Columbus, North Carolina
Local Brick with Cast Stone Cap and Chambers
Dedicated September 17, 2019

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Where history meets the future.

Our Mission



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Civil Rights Amendments



The Civil Rights Amendments Document is an original historic work of art commissioned by Foundation Forward, Inc. of North Carolina. Our founder, Vance Patterson, tells the story of how these important amendments came to be added to our Charters of Freedom projects:

“Over the past decade, when I’d be going around the country making presentations to counties offering the gift of a Charters of Freedom setting, I’d sometimes get the question, ‘What about the other amendments?’ And I knew what they were talking about – the **13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. The 13th abolishes slavery, the 14th guarantees citizenship, and the 15th guarantees the right to vote.** And I’d say something like, ‘Well, those are very important, but they aren’t part of the Charters of Freedom, so they’re not part of the gift.’ Sometimes the discussion that followed would get in the way of them accepting the gift.

Well, over the years, I began to realize this was about a lot more than just displaying the founding documents. It’s about education, and it’s important that people know these civil rights are in place now, for all people.

So, I did some research and learned that there was no document known as The Civil Rights Amendments. Not only that, but there are two more amendments that needed to be included:

- **The 19th - Women’s Suffrage**
- **The 24th (which was the result of the 1964 Civil Rights Act) - No Poll Tax**

In November 2020, I commissioned the nationally-known calligraphy artist John Stevens, of Winston Salem, North Carolina, to take my proposed wording and make it into a document styled after the Bill of Rights. John researched the 18th-century writing styles, the materials used, and the format for documents of that era.

It took John over five months to complete the project, which, being an entrepreneur, I thought was a little long, but Mr. Stevens produced a true work of historic art!”

Your Civil Rights Amendments

Where history meets the future.

History Government Civics



It's amazing how many people come to the Charters of Freedom setting, read the documents and say, "That's all there is to our Constitution . . . only four pages?"

You would not believe how many people do not know that our first approved Ten Amendments are our Bill of Rights! Many citizens do not realize the First Amendment, which guarantees Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Assembly, Freedom of the Press, and the Freedom and Right to Petition the Government is only 45 words!

After the presentation dedication ceremony of Your Charters of Freedom setting, schoolteachers will begin bringing their 3rd-5th-grade classes on field trips to see these founding documents in a proper setting. While students are there, they learn about American history, at the time of our County's founding. Schoolchildren will learn about government and how it is to serve and protect, *We the People*. Students will also learn about civics and how they can participate in local, state, and national programs, to serve our Country. This is now happening in communities across the Country where students and others have their Charters of Freedom setting. The students love it!

"Our hope is that our future leaders will come from communities with their own Charters of Freedom," says Vance. "They will grow up not just talking about the Constitution and Bill of Rights in Washington, but talking about *their* Constitution and *their* Bill of Rights, the ones they grew up with, right in their home community. And they will know how government is supposed to work to protect and serve *We the People*."

Access and Community



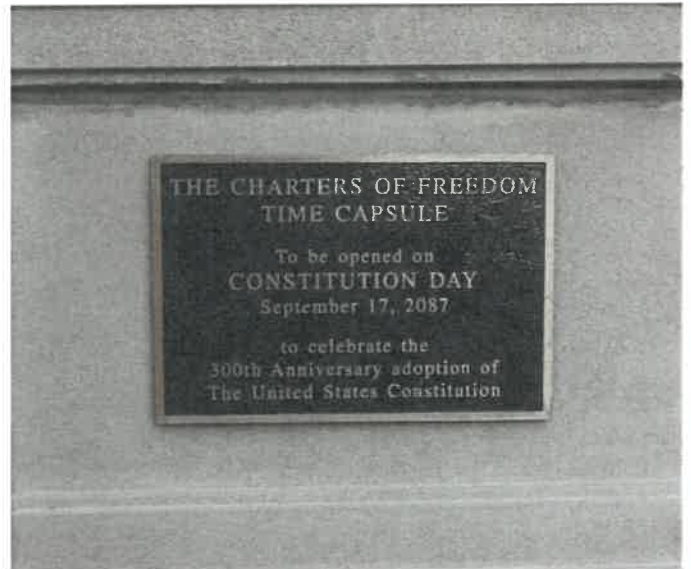
Not everyone can get to our nation's capital to see the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. "It took me over 60 years to get to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. to see our founding documents," Founder Vance Patterson explains. "Even though it's free and open to the public, most people will never see and experience these documents in a proper setting."

The goal of Foundation Forward is to bring these documents to local communities in life-sized replicas of the settings in the National Archives. Your Charters of Freedom setting will be placed in a location central to the community, with high visibility, high foot traffic, and easy access for schoolchildren and veterans. They are built to last 300 to 500 years!

Your Charters of Freedom will be a firm basis on which to teach and preserve American history surrounding the time of our country's founding. Civics and government can be taught so all will know how our government is meant to serve and protect *We the People*.

Veterans will feel a renewed sense of pride and comfort because they swore an allegiance to the United States Constitution.

On the 300th anniversary of our United States Constitution Day, September 17, 2087, your community will participate in the opening of the vaults containing the time capsules, along with all the other communities around the country.



Where history meets the future.

Dedications and Celebrations

The dedication and gifting of the Charters of Freedom is a historic event for the community.



PRESENTATION OF COLORS



PRAYER



PLEDGE



HIGH SCHOOL BANDS & CHOIRS



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



COLLEGE STUDENTS



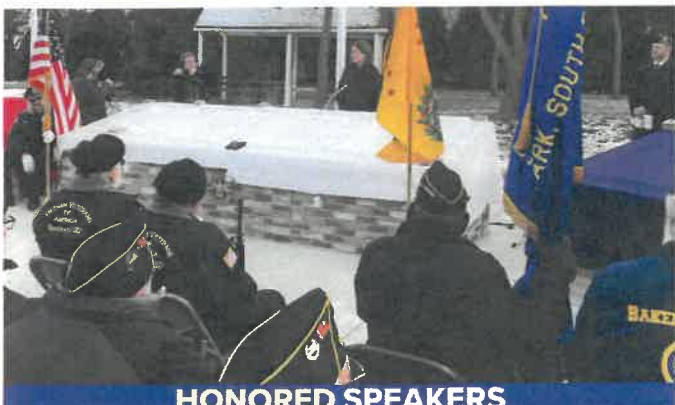
FAMILIES



DEDICATION CANNON SALUTE



SCOUTS FIRING CANNON SALUTE



HONORED SPEAKERS



EVENTS

Foundation Forward Education Park

Where History Meets the Future

Foundation Forward, Inc. moved into our new corporate headquarters in 2018, and our thoughts soon turned toward the question of what to do with the additional property next to our building. After several months of discussions and planning, we decided that we wanted to convert the space into a park. It would not be just any park, however, it would be an Education Park, promoting learning about American History and Civics, state and local government, our Armed Forces, and more! We wanted to build something that would be a great enhancement to the community, a place where our citizens can learn, honor, reflect, and celebrate. **Thus, the first Foundation Forward Education Park, "Where History Meets the Future," was created!**

At the front of the park is a unique Charters of Freedom setting. This includes a life-size display of the Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, and Bill of Rights, and was the first setting in the nation to include a beautiful display of the Civil Rights Amendments. Each document is on ¼" etched bronze and weighs over 60 lbs. To commemorate the addition of the new display to this and future settings, framed copies of the Civil Rights Amendments were created and are being presented to all counties in the United States that have existing Charters of Freedom settings.

In front of the Charters of Freedom setting is a Field of Honor where you can purchase a brick or polished granite paver to honor those in your family, organizations, or other important parts of your life.

At the four corners of the front of the park are The Founding Fathers of Education, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, and John Adams. All life-size statues, from 5'4" Madison to 6'3" Jefferson, are of museum-quality bronze and are depicted at the age they were when the U.S. Constitution was signed into law. Jefferson is 44, Franklin is 81, Madison is 36, and Adams is 51.

Moving past the Charters of Freedom setting, you go through the sliding gate and under the "Where History Meets the Future" sign. Following the blue, white, and yellow pathway to the right, you will travel the American Revolution Timeline, which begins with the tragic events of the Boston Massacre. As you continue, you'll see significant battles and events in the North on the right, and then see how the war shifted to the South on the left. The two come together after the Battle of Yorktown with the displays of the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights.

If you were to go to the left after you pass through the gate and follow the red, white, and blue pathway, you'll see how our government was formed to Serve and Protect We The People. All branches of the government are displayed and detailed into their departments and divisions. Federal, State, County, and City are shown along this wall.

At the back of the park, you will find the displays dedicated to the United States Armed Forces. All six military service branches (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force) have their flags on individual poles. These flags fly above a memorial wall, where mounted brass plates show the names of Burke County service members who have died in action since 1941. Included in this tribute are pedestals with bronze plaques stating each service's Motto, Creed, and War Cry. At the center of the wall is a statue of General George Washington, depicted at the age of 55, when he finished his military career.

Other park features include a burbling water fountain, a brick wishing well, benches, and planters with indigenous plants.

Where history meets the future.

Foundation Forward Education Park





Memorial Tribute for Mark Finegan

whose tireless effort brought the Charters of Freedom to Hamilton County, Noblesville, Indiana in September 2019.

All Honor To His Name.



FOUNDATION FORWARD, INC.
A 501 (C)(3)
227 MAIN STREET WEST
VALDESE, NC 28690

Chairman Tim Murphy
Columbia County Administration Building
135 NE Hernando Ave Suite 203
Lake City, Fla 32055

The citizens of your county, and all 67 counties of Florida, have been given an "America250" Gift from Foundation Forward of Burke County, North Carolina. This gift consists of Seven Laser-Etched Documents of The Charters of Freedom and Civil Rights Amendments. The Charters of Freedom are your Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, and Bill of Rights. These documents are on laser-etched 3/16" stainless steel plates, each weighing over 40 lbs.

The purpose of this gift is Education: education to preserve American history at the time of the founding of our country and education in Civics, so all of your citizens will know how government - Federal, State, and Local - is meant to serve and protect We The People.

With the enclosed sets of prints, construction videos, printed instructions, and pictures you can see how to display your Charters of Freedom and Civil Rights Amendments in a setting similar to that used in the Rotunda of the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Foundation Forward, Inc. a 501(C)(3) has already gifted 75 Charters of Freedom settings in 17 states across the country over the past 12 years, including the Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, CA and Jimmy Carter National Historic Site in Plains, GA. If you would like to see an already existing Charters of Freedom and Civil Rights setting in Florida, you can visit The Riverfront Esplanade at Daytona Beach.

Having your Charters of Freedom and Civil Rights Amendments documents in a proper setting will give the citizens of your community a place to gather to Celebrate, Honor, and Reflect. Other ways to display these documents would be up to your Board of Commissioners and the Citizens of your county.

Watch the enclosed videos, review the prints and literature, visit our website at Chartersoffreedom.com and discuss the possibilities for your county.

This can be An Outstanding "America250" Project for your community!

Questions can be answered by visiting our website, or by calling 828-522-1400.

Sincerely,

Vance Patterson
Founder
Foundation Forward, Inc.
Chartersoffreedom.com



Chartersoffreedom.com 828-522-1400 YourChartersOffFreedomTeam@Gmail.com

The Freedom Monuments – Installation

All Seasons Planning Inc. ----- Total \$25,750.00
(Proposal for Paver Installation at the Olustee Park)

Ron David Plastering, LLC-----Total \$10,588.00
(Proposal for Stucco)

Charles Custom Memorials-----Total \$28,312.00
(Proposal of Installing Plaques on Granite as well as mounting)

Pillars Welding and Trade Services-----Total \$12,000.00
(Quote for Fabrication and Installation of 8 Aluminum Stands)

Installation of Total Cost \$76,650.00



CGC 1517099

July 10, 2026

**Proposal for Paver installation at the
Columbia County Courthouse Park for Constitutional Plaques**

Services to include in base price:

- Excavation of 9" of existing materials within existing 1,500sf area bounded by concrete walks shown in attached graphic of work area
- Installation of 6" crushed Concrete Fines, graded and compacted.
- Relocation of water or other conflicting utilities is not included
- Installation of Pine Hall Red beveled fired brick pavers 4"x8"x 2.25" to be sand set on new crushed concrete fine base
- Final cleanup, joint sanding and excess work material removal is included.
- Work includes all labor and materials for paver scope only during 8-5 normal M-F week
- EXCLUSIONS- No design or construction of plaque bases or related elements, county to provide security fence and signage for public safety, require 3 parking space access blocked off for truck and material access during construction, not responsible for any utility relocations or damage repair, not responsible for lost time due to weather delays.

Total Cost- \$25,750.

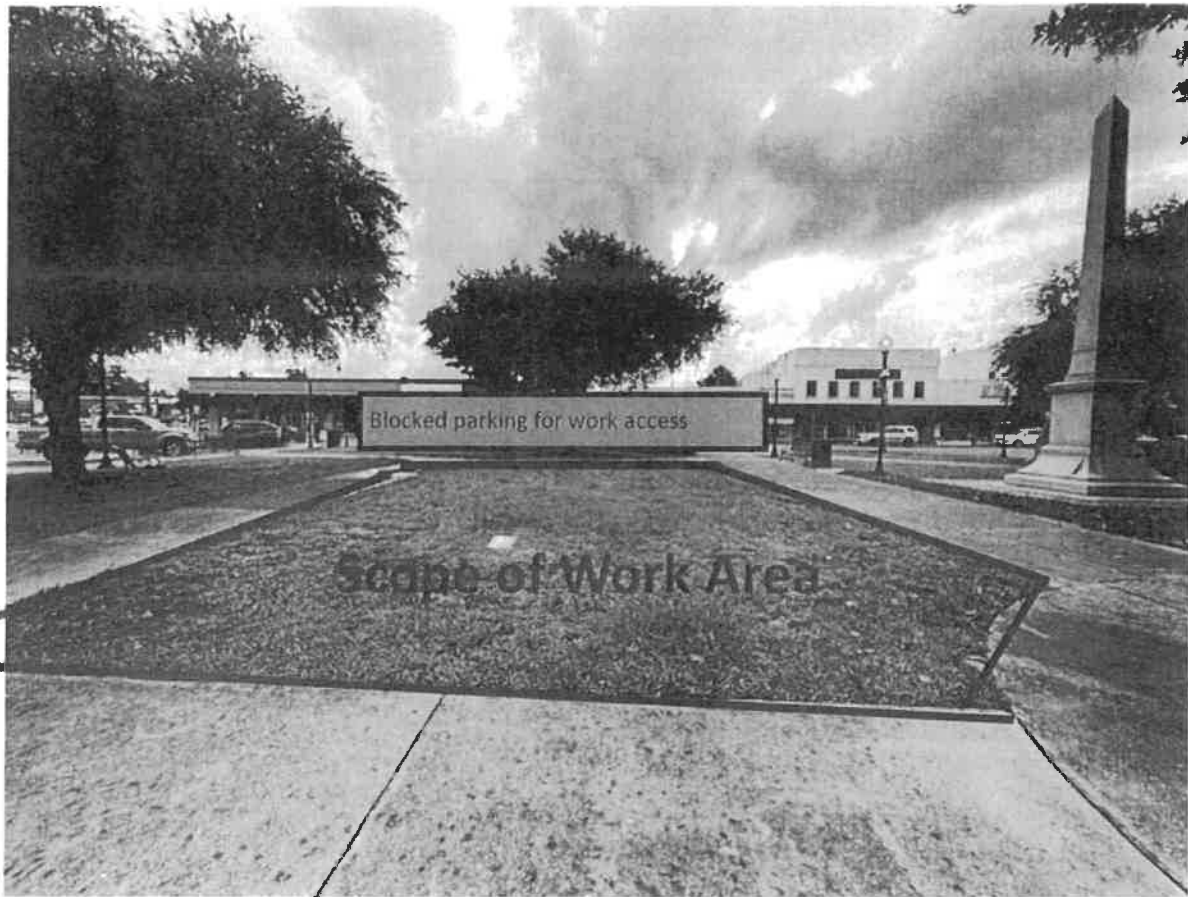
A 30% Deposit (\$7725) is required to secure special order materials, progress billing based on completion.

ACCEPTANCE:

DATE

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "James R. Zuber", is written over a horizontal line.

- 7-10-26



OUTLINED WORK AREA SCOPE IS SHADED.



Approximately 1,500sf of fired clay pavers on 6" crushed concrete fines. Work includes removal of approximately 9" of existing sod and soil and installation of 2.25" thick clay pavers sand set on leveling course and final joint sanding and cleanup. Note scope exclusions on proposal by All Seasons Planning, Inc., a 30 year local company—installer of existing Court House pavers



Ron David Plastering, LLC
603 SW Ralph Ter
Lake City, FL 32024-1517
386-623-0549
rdplastering09@aol.com

ADDRESS

Columbia County

Estimate 2601

DATE 08/21/2026

P.O. NUMBER

Down town monuments

ACTIVITY

QTY

RATE

AMOUNT

Stucco:Stucco

1

10,588.00

10,588.00

1- 14' long monument sign
4- 4' x 42" monument signs.
Install dura over aluminum frame. Put
trim on to match corners. Base coat with
mesh and synthetic color finish. Labor
and materials included.

TOTAL

\$10,588.00

Accepted By

Accepted Date

Thank you for your business and we look forward to working with you

Charles Custom Memorials

561 NW Hilton Ave.

Lake City, FL 32055

Phone (386) 755-4001 Fax (386) 754-5382

Estimate

August 19, 2026

Board of Columbia County Commissioners

Attn: Kimi Roberts

Lake City, FL 32055

Monuments in Olustee Park

Quote includes installing plaques on granite as well as mounting granite to platform provided by others

Description of Job:	Price
48" x 42" x 1.5" Georgia Grey panels w/Rounded edges and corners \$3,360.00 each x qty 4	\$13,440.00
81" x 48" x 1.5" Georgia Grey panels w/Rounded edges and corners \$7,436.00 each x qty 2	\$14,872.00
Please provide sales tax certificate	
Total	\$28,312.00



Welding and Trade Services

QUOTE

370 NW Railroad ST
Lake City, FL 32055
386-984-6467

DATE

8/19/2026

To: Columbia County Board of County Commissioners

Monuments Olustee Park Downtown Lake City
ATTN: Kimi Roberts - Columbia County Events Specialist
kroberts@columbiacountyfla.com
(386) 758-1390

Description of work

Quote is for fabrication and installation of 8 aluminum stands per dimensions given by Tim Murphy.
Installation location at Olustee park will be discussed at a later time.
No time frame on completion has been agreed to.

ITEM	QTY	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
Fabrication and Installation			\$12,000.00
Price Does Not Include Sales Tax Customer must provide Certificate of Exemption			\$0.00
Thank you for your business!	TOTAL		\$12,000.00