

Project Title Korean Defense Service Memorial

Applicant Name Korean War Veterans Association - Oregon Trail Chapter 72

Contact (Name) Mary Gifford

Title Treasurer

Project Duration: Start Date September 2025

Estimated Completion Date September 2026

Project Budget

Total Project Budget \$ 25,000.00

Applicant Cash Match (a) \$ 4,500.00

In-Kind Resources (b) \$ 0.00

Total Applicant Match (a+b) \$ 4,500.00

Grant Request \$ 4,500.00

Project Narrative Questions

Provide a project description

We propose the installation of a Korean Defense Service Memorial at the Oregon Korean War Memorial in Wilsonville. This new monument will honor all United States military personnel who have served in Korea from July 28, 1954, to the present—recognizing those who made the ultimate sacrifice, as well as the many thousands who continue to help preserve peace along the Demilitarized Zone.

The centerpiece of the project will be a 5 1/2' by 2 1/2' by 8" granite monument, carved in Colonial Rose, featuring a bronze plaque inscribed:

“Dedicated to all Korean Defense Service Veterans who served in defense of the Korean Peninsula and to all who paid the ultimate sacrifice.”

This design complements the existing memorial, which honors the 298 Oregonians lost during the Korean War, and extends its timeline to reflect decades of ongoing service.

The Korean Peninsula remains divided, with no peace treaty ever signed, and American

troops continue to defend freedom in the region. This new memorial will serve as a lasting reminder that freedom is not free.

The total project budget is \$25,000. We seek grant support to help fund construction, installation, and public outreach efforts, including a formal dedication ceremony and educational materials.

How will your project promote arts, culture, history, or heritage in Wilsonville

This project promotes history and heritage by expanding the Oregon Korean War Memorial to honor the continued service of U.S. military personnel in Korea since 1954. It brings attention to an often-overlooked chapter of American history, highlighting a mission that remains ongoing more than 70 years after the armistice. Over 30,000 U.S. troops have remained stationed in South Korea, with more than 1,200 lives lost in peacetime operations—a legacy of service that deserves recognition.

By adding this monument, we enhance the educational and cultural value of the memorial site, helping visitors understand the long-term U.S. role in preserving peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. This addition will also deepen public appreciation for the sacrifices made by service members in the decades since the war formally ended.

In addition, the monument's design—crafted in granite and bronze—adds to Wilsonville's public art landscape. It serves not only as a commemorative structure but also as a work of art that expresses enduring values: patriotism, peace, and remembrance.

How will your project benefit the Wilsonville Community?

The Korean Defense Service Memorial will provide a permanent and welcoming space for reflection, education, and remembrance. It gives Wilsonville residents and visitors the opportunity to learn about America's ongoing role in Korea—an era of service often overlooked in school curricula and public discourse.

This project will support community engagement through a public dedication ceremony and encourage regular visits to the site by veterans, students, families, and civic groups. It will also serve as a meaningful location for future veteran recognition events, cultural programs, and educational tours.

The memorial strengthens Wilsonville's identity as a city that honors its veterans, supports public art, and helps preserve important chapters of American and global history. Currently, the Korean War Memorial receives visitors on Memorial Day, Veterans

Day, and other occasions. With this addition, we expect increased interest from Korean-American organizations, military families, schools, and heritage-focused visitors throughout the year.

What are your organization's goals for this project? (Use measurable data if possible.) How will you know that you succeeded in your goals?

Our primary goal is to raise the full \$25,000 needed to install the Korean Defense Service Memorial by spring 2026. Success will be measured by three outcomes: (1) the completed installation of the granite monument and bronze plaque, (2) a well-attended public dedication ceremony, and (3) strong engagement from the community through outreach and educational efforts.

We will track visitor interest during key events such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and gather feedback from attendees, school groups, and veteran families. In particular, we will work with local veterans' organizations and educators to encourage visits and discussions centered on the expanded historical timeline.

The Oregon Trail Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association has already begun fundraising and secured early contributions. Support from the Community Cultural Grant will help close the remaining funding gap and ensure the project is completed on time. Community response to the dedication event and long-term engagement with the site will help us evaluate the impact of the memorial in honoring Korean Defense Service Veterans and educating the public.

If this is an annual event for which you have received Community Cultural Events and Programs Grant funding in the past, what new or expanded attractions or partners have been added? (Please note: annual events must add attractions or partners in order to be eligible for grant funding.)

This is a new, one-time memorial installation and not part of an annual event. However, the dedication ceremony may be scheduled to coincide with existing commemorative events at the Oregon Korean War Memorial, such as Memorial Day or Veterans Day.

We also anticipate building new and expanded partnerships for the dedication, including collaboration with local schools, veteran service organizations, and Korean-American cultural groups. These partnerships will help enhance public engagement and educational opportunities, both during the dedication and in future community observances.

How are you/your organization suited to produce this project/program? Provide the community resources that will be used if applicable (volunteers, local vendors, local contributions, etc.)

The Oregon Trail Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association is a 501(c)(19) nonprofit organization with decades of experience honoring veterans and coordinating memorial projects in partnership with municipalities and community stakeholders. Our members include veterans who served in both the Korean War and the Korean Defense period, offering firsthand knowledge and deep personal commitment to this effort.

The Association has successfully completed similar memorial installations and maintains strong relationships with local volunteers, veteran support networks, and civic partners. We will rely on volunteer support for event planning, outreach, and coordination, while donations and in-kind contributions will assist with printing, design, and dedication expenses.

We are also working with trusted local vendors and contractors for the fabrication and installation of the granite monument and bronze plaque. The community has already shown strong interest in the Oregon Korean War Memorial Park, and we are confident this meaningful addition will be realized with broad public support and lasting community pride.