

## **BOARD DIRECTORY**

Tom Wright, Chairman

Don Watnick, Vice Chairman

August Flach, Secretary

Susan Frantzich, Director

Dr. William E. Rice, Director

## STAFF DIRECTORY

Lorenzo Rios - Chief Executive Officer

Amy Whitacre - Director of Operations

Caitlin Wheeler-Bonham - Bookkeeper

Rodney Hartman - Receptionist

Kara Grimes - Receptionist

Mandy Hille - Customer Service Lead

Tammy Moser - Facility Coordinator

Miya Ubick - Facility Coordinator

Jale Wesley - Marketing Associate

Elizabeth P. Rios - Marketing Associate

Andy Soldo - CHC Coordinator

Jesus Verduzco - Facilities Maintenance Technician

Arthur Gonzales - Operations Supervisor

Juan Rodriguez - Operations Team Lead

Michael Carrizales - Operations Lead

Joe Bernal - Operations Team Lead

Gabriel Cervantes - Operations Team Lead

Kirk McDonald - Operations Team Member

Gavin McGuire - Operations Team Member

Jesse Herrera - Operations Team Member

Ben Ramos-Solano - Operations Team Member

**Roland Corral** - Operations Team Member

McCaleb Pewitt - Operations Team Member

Nathan Roush - Operations Team Member







## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

One of Clovis' many great stories is how the Clovis Veterans Memorial District came to be. As World War II was winding down, four locals were having morning coffee when one suggested they raise money for a statue in the park to honor those who served in the military. One of the men, George "Tink" Kastner, suggested that instead of a statue, they create living memorial, a building where veterans and the community could gather. The idea grew, land was donated, and the original



Clovis Veterans Memorial Building arose at 5th St. and Hughes Ave. The site included a gymnasium and small office. As Clovis expanded, so did the facility. It is now a breathtaking conference center, second-to-none. Virtually every day it is busy hosting everything from small committee meetings to major regional and statewide conferences. Thousands of people attend events which raise hundreds of thousands of dollars, turned back to important organizations and community causes.

The original idea of a statue in the park has not been neglected. We have several breathtaking monuments on site and throughout the community, paying reverent respect to Veterans, their service and their families.

We also sponsor several major annual events, from traditional Veterans and Memorial Day celebrations to a Patriot's Dinner saluting local high school students who commit to military service upon graduating.

"CLOVIS IS A COMMUNITY THAT HONORS, RESPECTS AND REMEMBERS ITS VETERANS."

We are humbled to be a significant part of that. We invite you to visit and appreciate our facilities.

Sincerely,

Tom Wright, Board Chairman Clovis Veterans Memorial District

Vom Wright



# A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



The Clovis Veterans Memorial District staff and I are pleased to close out the year and see what the following year has in store. Although this year had its challenges we are proud to have developed greater awareness of the sacrifice made by the men and women that serve our nation in defense of our freedoms through support of educational programs with Clovis Unified School District and various community events. We hosted our first virtual Memorial Day and

Salute to Patriots Day in order to keep our community safe while remaining true to the District's mission to honor our community's and country's foundational ideals.

The District Board of Directors and staff are diligently working in order to open as soon as we are allowed to. We will continue to bring our community together, virtually or in-person, through programs that promote greater collaboration across different community organizations.

"THIS ANNUAL REPORT PROVIDES OUR COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS A SNAPSHOT OF HOW THE TAX DOLLARS ENTRUSTED TO US ARE PUT TO WORK."

Upgrading the technology of the district, building greater capacity to serve our community through capital projects, and facility upgrades are only a few areas where our resources have been allocated. The remaining areas are in support of programs that promote a legacy of service for preserving our community's and country's foundational ideals.

Sincerely,

Lorenzo Rios, CEO

Clovis Veterans Memorial District

Lovenzo Rios





# STATISTICS

# 2020 FISCAL YEAR

74

YEARS IN OPERATION

Our water bottle fillers have been used 3,440 times, limiting the amount of plastic in oceans or landfills.





The EV Chargers have avoided 65 KG greenhouse gas emissions which is equivalent to planting 2 trees and letting them grow for 10 years.

From the class of 2020, over 90 graduating seniors were recognized for joining the armed forces.



Reached over 3,000 followers on Facebook



Hosted over 100 virtual meetings





1,884 Student submissions for veterans day contest



We have generated 276,805 kWh (Kilowatt hours) through our solar panels. This amount of energy could power 2,430 light bulbs for 1 year use.



# ABOUT US

# HONORING OUR VETERANS & SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1946.

"OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE A PERMANENT LIVING MEMORIAL HONORING U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS; PROVIDE FACILITIES AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE A LEGACY OF SERVICE FOR PRESERVING OUR COMMUNITY'S AND COUNTRY'S FOUNDATIONAL IDEALS"

### **PILLARS**

#### Veterans

The District strives to honor selfless service and sacrifice of all Veterans engaging the whole person and their family. We will continue to expand the spectrum of a Veteran which shows that our nation's heroes are much more than men and women in uniform. We promote healthy opportunities that integrate the Veteran into the community, and facilitate transitions of service members and their families through advocacy and community partnership.

#### EDUCATION

The District bridges the Civilian - Military divide by facilitating programs that engage the community on their duty to serve as responsible citizens. We promote programs that facilitate collaborative relationships and share information which generate the understanding of service.

#### COMMUNITY

The District organizes programs that bring the community together to celebrate. We make efforts to include all stakeholders to address issues that would divide us and seek answers that unite us. We expand the understanding of community by reconnecting to our traditional values and exploring the opportunities found within our community to integrate the full spectrum of military family integration.

#### Business

The District promotes community business as part of our community support, Veteran, and family advocacy. We will continue to facilitate entrepreneurial aspiration and advocate for Veteran and family employment.





# SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC

At the close of the fiscal year, June 30, 2020, the District had not reopened as the guidelines per; city, county, and state prohibited gatherings of all sizes to stop the spread of COVID-19, better known as Coronavirus.





The administrative team in our District staff were able to telecommute and keep our office open virtually during the pandemic to assist our clients in rescheduling and booking future events. During this time, we were able to find a new reservation system that would allow staff to do all work efficiently, take online bookings and payments, and send contracts out virtually. Staff have worked diligently during this time to learn the program and put it into action.

Our Operations Supervisor, Leads, and Maintenance Technician have ensured that our facility is renewed during the pandemic and improved upon. Internally they have taken on many projects including revamping the Patriots Room, repainting all the doors, fixing drop lines and sprinklers, repainting the Freedom Room, leveling the Independence Room, and deep cleaning the facility.







# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

During fiscal year 2020 we focused on finishing capital improvements that had begun at the Rex Phebus Memorial Building. Access control and an upgraded alarm system were added to the facility allowing clients the flexibility of accessing their room without needing assistance. The District invested in a touch screen live event platform, allowing for live mixing of events that will be utilized for internal events and for our clients. The Veterans Room, Independence Room, and Freedom Room all received drop down projectors that allow clients to project wirelessly.

The District applied for and received two grants; Fresno Incentive Program and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control Rebate, to purchase and install ten electric vehicle charger stations in the District's covered parking lot. The project was completed in June of 2020 and gives patrons the opportunity to charge their vehicles while visiting the



District or downtown. During the closures due to COVID-19 the District worked diligently to ensure that the facility was enhanced including a HVAC renovation, revitalizing the carpet and wallpaper in the Patriots Room, and a clean up of the server room. All the renovations ensure that when the District is able to reopen it will be improved for our community!

# COMMUNITY HERITAGE CENTER

The Community Heritage Center interior renovation and mural was completed in fiscal year 2020. The District worked with Darden Architects on the design and concept of the facility. Mark Wilson Construction acted as construction manager, and a myriad of prime contractors were utilized to bring the vision of the Community Heritage Center to life. The facility includes a track system allowing for maximum flexibility in moving exhibits, lighting, and projection. A mural was created for the exterior of the facility to highlight three things important to the heritage of our community: the timeline of the founding of Clovis, national conflicts that our citizens have participated in, and a vision for the future. A committee of community members was formed to begin work on the Clovis 101 curriculum, and a list of themes was developed in order to plan the next 5 years of exhibits. The first exhibit, Clovis Comes Together, is set to open November 11, 2020 and will showcase how our community was founded.





# VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS



## **VFW POST 3225**

In keeping with the Veterans of Foreign War legacy of "Honoring our Veterans by Remembering the Fallen," the VFW Post 3225 serves our Veterans, their families and the community.

In May of 2019, the Post featured an annual "Loyalty Day" ceremony. The Post raised funds at the annual Memorial Day Golf Tournament in support of the Rehabilitation Program at the Fresno VA Hospital. On Memorial Day, the VFW honored the fallen at Clovis, Academy, and Redbank cemeteries. In June, they participated in the Flag Day Ceremony in Old Town Clovis. In July, the Post organized and operated its annual fireworks stand. In November, they hosted its annual Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast as part of activities held at the District. In December, the Post participated in its 8th Wreaths Across America campaign laying wreaths at local cemeteries.







The VFW Post 3225 Honor Guard continues to provide full honors for fallen service members including Presentation of the Flag, Rifle Volley, and Taps. They also installed a flag pole at Sandy's Country Junction in Old Town Clovis dedicated to all who have served our great nation. The Post continually serves the community by collecting U.S. Flags to be retired alongside other Veteran Service Organizations. Cub Scouts. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, JROTC Cadets and the AUSA Band who participate in flag retirement ceremonies. The Post proudly supports local charities assisting Veterans and their families, and various local Veteran Service Organizations.



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 933 continues to support a number community projects, particularly those serving the needs of young college and high school students. They have donated scholarship funding for two area high school JROTC Scholarship Programs and contributed a total of \$1,000 to the Fresno State University Veterans Education Program.

In addition, they contribute a continuing annual \$500 veterans' scholarship to the Fresno City Foundation. Chapter 933 has been a continuing financial supporter (\$900 in the period indicated) of the Heart of the Horse Therapy Ranch, a non-profit organization which provides therapy for medically fragile children and Veterans. Their members volunteer at the ranch and help with special projects like the Children's Rodeo in Clovis, visits to the Children's Hospital, and a number of fundraising events.







The Chapter hosts its Annual
Memorial Day Sunrise Service at
Woodward Park each year, participates
in the Annual Veterans Day Parade and
the Fresno City College Veterans Day
Program. They also operate
information/recruitment booths at
Clovis Big Hats Day and Clovis Fest, as
well as Districts events such as
POW/MIA Day, Halloween
Spooktacular, Veterans Day,
Sweetheart Dance, etc.

Additionally, Chapter members have made many multi-media presentations on military history for the Veterans Class held at the District every Monday morning. Since March, Chapter 933 members are continuing to meet online, for Board Meetings and General membership meetings and continuing to offer financial and volunteer support for the programs listed above.





#### **CENTRAL VALLEY VETERANS**



Central Valley Veterans (CVV) provided over \$96,000 in direct support to 350 Veterans, Active Duty, Guard, Reservists and their families in 2019. This direct support included emergency housing, rent and security deposit support, utility payments, transportation, job and education needs and more.

In addition, CVV supported a Hospitality
House, with overhead costs of over \$20,000,
used to provide emergency "bridge housing" for
families waiting for permanent housing and for
VA hospital outpatients and families with
patients in the hospital. Close to 20 individuals
and families stayed at the Hospitality House in
2019 free of charge with food assistance as
needed. CVV sponsored and supported the 2019
Central Valley Veterans' Stand Down and the
2019 Central Valley Womens' Stand Up. More
than 400 Veterans attended the Stand Down,
accessing community services, including a
Veterans Court, and free breakfast and lunch.

Almost 640 volunteer hours were logged in. Overnight services for 113 homeless veterans and their families were also provided at this four-day event. The Stand Up was a huge success with 130 female Veterans and Active Military, and 51 vendors and volunteers participating and enjoying a Keynote presentation by Madera County District Attorney, Sally Moreno. Their "Holiday Giving" program expenditures topped \$19,000 in 2019 with donations of Thanksgiving turkey and Christmas ham food boxes to over 400 Veterans, Active Duty, Guard, Reservists and their families. CVV also provided gifts to more than 280 children. Unfortunately, they were forced to postpone their May 2020 Warriors on the Lake event due to the COVID-19 health crisis. They are grateful to our community for supporting these efforts!





## **AMERICAN LEGION POST 147**

Legionnaires participated in Clovis Fest, serving a Tri-tip sandwich lunch both days and having a recruiting booth at Clovis Night Out for the first time. Both events resulted in some fundraising and attracting a few new members. Volunteers supported the District's Halloween Spooktacular event, donating \$250 toward candies and supplies needed for the event. Post 147 supported the local Salvation Army bell ringing operation in early December. This resulted in earning \$978.12 in donations, earning the post the "Bell Ringer of the Year" Award for 2019 presented by the Salvation Army.

During their joint Christmas party with VFW post 3225, they donated more than \$250.00 toward the purchase of toys for underprivileged youth. Volunteers supported the "Sweetheart's Dance", earning \$876.00 that was donated to the local Boys and Girls Club. Additionally, water, soda, beer and wine were provided for those who attended. Post membership handed out 300 American flags to drive through visitors at the Clovis Cemetery on Memorial Day. This resulted in over \$200 in donations which were, in turn. donated to Blue Star Moms. Additionally, during the past fiscal year they earned a 100% membership ribbon for their efforts in the 2018-2019 year. They've also recently been awarded a Post Excellence Award for achieving over 100% membership and over 90% retention over the past membership year. They sponsored 6 boys and 5 girls to the annual Boys and Girls State Educational Programs, however, the ending program was cancelled due to COVID-19 as was their annual oratorical competition program.



The Post 147 Honor Guard, the only fully active American Legion Honor Guard in the Valley, provided services on 21 occasions, working jointly with the VFW Post 3225 to provide Color Guard at various events. The Post has provided approximately \$1000 in financial assistance to local veterans in need and raised more than \$500 for the CALVAR program which helps fund Service Officers at the VA. They've have also given support in the amount of \$250 toward homeless veterans. During the current pandemic, they have supported and reached out to many VSO's such as VA Voices, Help Heal Veterans, American Veterans, and VFW Post 3225. Additionally, they gave the VA employee staff orientation training program free use of the Post 147 building when they were displaced from their usual meeting places due to COVID-19. These groups are being allowed to utilize their space without cost until they are able to return to their normal venues. They will continue to offer these services to veterans as needed providing the circumstances are within current federal, state, and local guidelines.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

Veteran and Community Service organizations came together to host the second annual Halloween Spooktacular, a ghoulish good time for families and community members alike. Past traditions show that residents partook in a Halloween Costume Parade, where students gathered in front of the old Carnegie Library and a police car would lead the parade down Pollasky Avenue. The parade ended at the District's former gym (Liberty Ballroom) for a movie night.

Upon learning this, current District staff saw a need to continue this special tradition in Clovis and decided to reach out to local organizations to host a new Halloween event for the community. The local veterans and community service organizations enthusiastically agreed and generously donated their resources, time and energy to host booths with games at the Spooktacular.

Kids came dressed up in costumes as they walked through a spooky room to trick-or-treat, played games, got their faces painted and enjoyed a Halloween movie. They also participated in ghastly arts and crafts, games, and jumped in the bounce house. There were 17 Veterans and community service organizations who volunteered in this event. Canned food donations were collected and donated to the Salvation Army Clovis.









#### HERE COMES SANTA

Here Comes Santa allows community members to take a free photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus each year, in conjunction with other activities to celebrate the holiday season. Children crafted ornaments, played Christmas themed games, participated in face painting, and jumped in the bounce house. The Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Sounds of Freedom Band provided live Christmas music. There was also an opportunity to take photos with Daniel Tiger courtesy of Valley PBS. Guests enjoyed the music as they sipped on hot chocolate and ate Christmas cookies. All proceeds benefitted Wreaths Across America.

#### VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, was established to mark the end of World War I and is celebrated on the eleventh day of the eleventh month. As part of our mission, each year we remember the fallen who have sacrificed for America's freedom, honor those who have served and are currently serving, and educate the community on the origins of Veterans Day.







In 2019, the community was invited to take part in activities that promote a legacy of service. including a patriotic concert showcasing Military traditions performed by the Clovis Community Band, a car show, outside activities and interacted with local military organizations. This year's theme Heart of a Hero: Remembering D-Day was highlighted with an exhibit that remembered the events of D-Day. In the evening a sit-down catered dinner was served to over 650 Veterans and a guest to show gratitude for their service, bringing the community together to share what it means to serve. In promoting a legacy of service a key part of our mission for Veterans Day is to ensure that the youth of the community understand what service is and how they can make an impact in their community.

In partnership with the Clovis Unified School District, the District hosts a contest annually that allows students to explore a theme in either art form, essay form, or digital media. This year's theme was "Heart of a Hero; Remembering D-Day" and the District received 1,638 pieces of artwork from elementary schools, 244 essays from intermediate schools, and digital medial submissions from high school students. Winners are chosen by one of our local organizations, The Clovis Art Guild, and winners are invited to an awards dinner to honor their accomplishments.





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



## **SALUTE TO PATRIOTS**

The Clovis Veterans Memorial District hosted its first ever virtual event to honor local high school seniors who answer to the call of duty and choose to serve our country upon graduation. Although this year is a little different due to certain restrictions, this event is still very important to the District. There are often events and special recognition for students who receive academic and athletic scholarships, but the students who selflessly choose to serve our country are rarely formally honored. The District, in partnership with Clovis Unified School District and Sierra High School, proudly pioneered this program to give recognition and appreciation to these local high school students with certificates from local legislators, and acknowledgement from military commanders. Over ninety students were recognized with special guest speakers including Dr. Eimear O'Farrell, District Chairman of the Board Tom Wright, and others.

## **SWEETHEART DANCE**

The third annual Sweetheart Dance was held in February as a fun way to bring the community together to enjoy the spirit of Valentine's Day and benefit our local Salvation Army and the Boys and Girls Club of Clovis. The Clovis Big Band played live swing music, filling the Liberty Ballroom with sounds of the past as couples danced the jitterbug and jive. Volunteers from the Clovis Young Marines received a few dance lessons and assisted with the photo booth. The District facilitated as our local Veterans groups came together to provide refreshments and information to guests. Donations totaling \$876.95 were given to the Boys and Girls Club-helping support 2 months of operation in their facility, - and the back of a pickup truck was filled with canned food to benefit the Central Valley Veterans Food Pantry.











## **MEMORIAL DAY**

Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, dates back to the years following the Civil War and is observed to honor those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. This year's theme was "Women in the Military" as we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Women's Suffrage Movement. The District usually hosts a large event which brings thousands of community members together, howeverdue to the current health crisis, it was decided to host a virtual celebration in order to keep our community safe while remaining true to the district's mission to honor our nation's fallen heroes.

The program included branch songs, patriotic marches recorded by the Clovis Community Band, a recording of the poem In Flander's Fields, and more. The District prepared a virtual Women in the Military exhibit which displayed military uniforms from different eras. Although the District celebrated Memorial Day differently this year, we will continue to honor our fallen heroes and create opportunities to bring the community together to share what it means to serve. The District prepared a virtual Women in the Military exhibit which displayed military uniforms from different eras. Although the District celebrated Memorial Day differently this year, we will continue to honor our fallen heroes and create opportunities to bring the community together to share what it means to serve.

# WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

Women have been serving their nation for hundreds of years- there have been many achievements made by women in the military, and their ability to integrate into military culture is still growing with the Department of Defense opening all combat jobs to women in 2016.







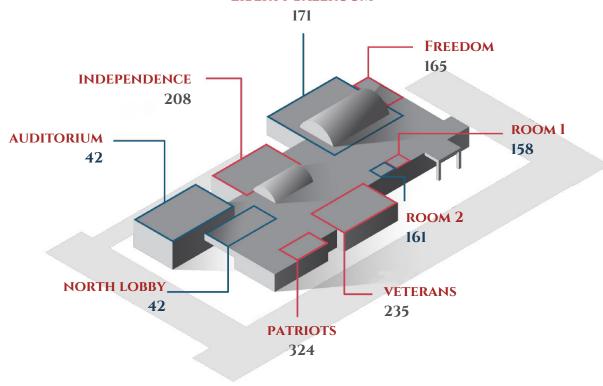


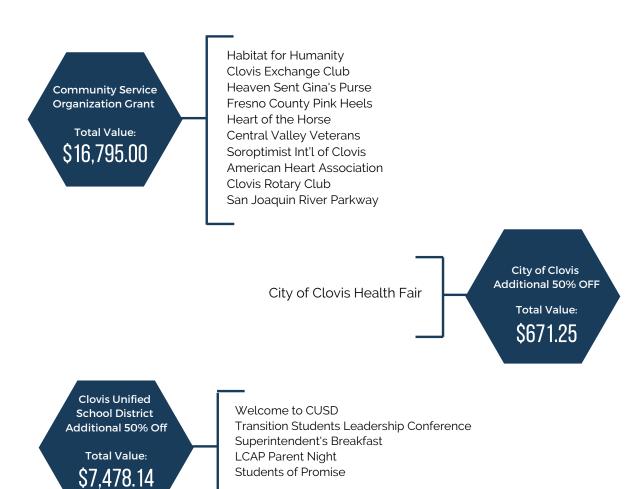
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## FY20- FACILITY USAGE

### LIBERTY BALLROOM







# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## **BUDGET OVERVIEW**

INCOME	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DELTA	% OF BUDGET UTILIZED
RENTALS	\$481,902.24	\$530,000.00	\$(48,097.76)	90.92%
EQUIPMENT	\$59,676.00	\$70,000.00	\$(10,324.00)	85.25%
OTHER	\$5,593.11	\$6,000.00	\$(406.89)	93.22%
TEETERS	\$3,574,799.47	3,091,500.00	\$483,299.47	115.63%
TOTAL	\$4,121,970.82	3,697,500.00	\$424,470.82	111.48%

EXPENSES	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DELTA	% OF BUDGET UTILIZED
SALARIES	\$721,101.90	\$914,633.46	\$(193,531.56)	78.84%%
RETIREMENT	\$259,020.81	\$272,000.00	\$(12,979.19)	95.23%
INSURANCE & BENEFITS	\$247,028.55	\$255,000.00	\$(7,971.45)	96.87%
ADMIN COSTS	\$258,007.72	\$323,600.00	\$(65,592.28)	79.73%
GRANTS & MEMORIALS	\$20,900.37	\$80,000.00	\$(59,099.63)	26.13%
299 LEASE PAYMENTS	\$282,515.38	\$283,000.00	\$(484.62)	99.83%
ACTIVITIES	\$61,993.46	\$96,000.00	\$(34,006.54)	64.58%
OPERATIONS	\$390,521.28	\$468,000.00	\$(77,478.72)	83.44%
TOTAL	\$2,241,089.47	\$2,692,233.46	\$(451,143.99	83.24%





# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## **BUDGET OVERVIEW**

CAPITAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DELTA	% OF BUDGET UTILIZED
HVAC REMODEL	\$574,092.01	\$750,000.00	\$(175,907.99)	76.55%
WIRELESS INFASTRACTURE UPGRADE	\$64,440.74	\$80,000.00	\$(15,559.26)	80.55%
SERVER REDUNDANCY	-	\$9,000.00	\$(9,000.00)	0.00%
HAMMER FIELD INSTALLATION	-	\$40,000.00	\$(40,000.00)	0.00%
PERGOLA	-	\$40,000.00	\$(40,000.00)	0.00%
BATHROOM REMODEL	-	\$86,000.00	\$(86,000.00)	0.00%
TOTAL	\$638,532.75	\$1,005,000.00	\$(366,467.25)	63.54%

## **DISCOUNTS BY CATEGORY**

IN DISTRICT	TOTAL USAGE	TOTAL VALUE
IN DISTRICT VETERANS ORG	142	\$95,285.00
IN DISTRICT CHURCH	166	\$64,260.00
IN DISTRICT YOUTH ORG	82	\$29,605.00
IN DISTRICT CSO	128	\$44,490.00
IN DISTRICT GOVERNMENT	79	\$41,189.75
IN DISTRICT IND. VET	28	\$5,496.25
IN DISTRICT INDIVIDUAL	76	\$5,088.88
IN DISTRICT ORGS/BUSINESS	34	\$7,110.75
TOTAL		\$292,525.63

OUT OF DISTRICT	TOTAL USAGE	TOTAL VALUE
OUT OF DISTRICT VETERANS ORG	4	\$4,545.00
OUT OF DISTRICT CHURCH	4	\$3,460.00
OUT OF DISTRICT CSO	8	\$2,693.00
OUT OF DISTRICT OTHER GOVT	4	\$3,001.25
OUT OF DISTRICT IND. VETERAN	11	\$937.50
TOTAL		\$14,636.75

OTHER	TOTAL USAGE	TOTAL VALUE
VETERAN MEMORIALS	17	\$15,180.00

TOTAL OF DISCOUNTS GIVEN

\$371,925.77







HONORING OUR VETERANS &
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1946