Nominations open for the Veterans Wall

Canyon Vista Medical Center (CVMC) and the Legacy Foundation of Southeast Arizona (LFSA) in concert with the United Veterans Council (UVC) are seeking nominations for the Veterans Wall at CVMC. CVMC is one of the few civilian hospitals in the United States that has devoted a portion of its interior to the men and women who served in our armed forces.

As you walk into the hospital, just past the concierge’s desk, there is a portion of the lobby that honors our military veterans.

On one side is a beautiful copper, American flag, and nearby there are two statues honoring the Buffalo Soldiers who were such a major part of Cochise County’s history. Across the way there is the Veterans Wall which contains twelve plaques honoring the service of Cochise County veterans.

In the first group of honorees, four are Army veterans; three are Marine Corps veterans; three are Navy veterans; and one is an Air Force veteran. Ten of the veterans are men; and two are women.

The idea was “born” at the end of the hospital’s construction phase in concert with the Legacy Foundation of Southeast Arizona when the committee in charge of decorating the hospital had the idea of commemorating those individuals who had worn the uniform of their country.

Recognizing that our community is heavily populated with veterans and has a strong military heritage going back to 1877 when Fort Huachuca was formed, the committee felt a statement should be made that in essence said “Thank you for your service.”

Initially the thought was to place pictures reminiscent of the military throughout the hospital, but that idea soon evolved into having a bolder statement in one given location for our veterans.

And so, the Veterans Wall was created.

As a part of this concept, the committee also stipulated the Veterans Wall would be perpetual and that it would be renewed each year at Veterans Day.

Recently a Veterans Wall committee was formed to select a new group of veterans to recognize for the Veterans Day year 2016 to 2017. Consisting of representatives from the Legacy Foundation, Canyon Vista Medical Center, and the United Veterans Council, the committee has recently issued a call for nominations: Canyon Vista Medical Center and the Legacy Foundation of Southeast Arizona seek to recognize those former or current residents of Cochise County who have worn the uniform of the nation’s armed forces and have contributed to their community.

Individuals must be nominated individually and must have honorably served in the United States Armed Forces as verified by a U.S. military service document such as a DD214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, or DD Form 2853, Certificate of Retirement.

Nominations may be submitted posthumously.

Copies of the nomination form are available online at the Legacy Foundation website, www.lfsaz.org, at the Legacy Foundation office 301 El Camino Real, or at the concierge desk, Canyon Vista Medical Center. Nominations must be submitted by August 26, 2016.

The nomination must describe the individual’s military service as well as the community service performed by the individual in his or her area of residence. Once the nominations have been received, the committee then has the task of selecting the honorees for this year.

A ceremony which will retire the current group of honorees is planned during the week of Veterans Day; their plaques will be presented to them or to their family.

Once the current honorees are retired, the new group will take its place on the Veterans Wall.

If there are questions about the process or project, they can be sent to veterans. wall@lfsaz.org.

Lanny A. Kope, EdD has been a hospital trustee for more than 30 years, serving on urban and rural hospital boards. He is the immediate past Board Chair of Sierra Vista Regional Health Center and has had a national responsibility as Chair of the American Hospital Association’s Committee on Governance. Dr. Kope is also a University of Phoenix faculty member in Health Care.