

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Meeting Date: October 27, 2009	1 st Reading _____ 2 nd Reading _____	Legal Review: N/A	Work Plan #	Agenda Location: Presentations	Agenda Item: 6A-2
Subject: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE THORNTON VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION FOR THE VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL EVENT AND PRESENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL AND EVENT ASSOCIATION'S SILVER PINNACLE AWARD.					
Prepared by: Jan Kiehl		Approved by: Jack Ethredge		Ordinance previously introduced by: _____	
Reviewed by: Mike Soderberg		Presented by: Andy Jennings Parks & Forestry Manager			

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- The International Festival & Event Association (IFEA) conducts the Pinnacle Awards Competition annually. Sponsored by industry leader Haas & Wilkerson Insurance, the professional competition draws entries from among the world's top festivals and events.
- City staff submitted a nomination for the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall presentation. The category of competition was "Best New Event within an Existing Event for the Benefit of a Charity", (within the \$250,000 to \$749,999 budget category).
- The IFEA paid tribute to the City of Thornton and the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation on September 23, 2009, where they were presented with the Silver Award in the nominated category.
- The IFEA/Haas & Wilkerson Pinnacle Awards represent the hallmark of excellence in the festivals and events industry. Entries in four budget categories, from every corner of the globe, provide for the recognition of the best in the business.

BUDGET/STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

- None.

RECOMMENDATION:

- Staff recommends approval of the resolution recognizing the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation for the recent Silver Pinnacle award that was presented by the International Festival & Event Association to the City of Thornton and the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation for the presentation of the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall in July 2008.

HISTORY: (includes previous City Council action)

- In 2007 the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation (TVMF) secured the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall for the 2008 July 4th weekend. In January 2008, the TVMF partnered with the City of Thornton Community Services Department to develop a plan for the delivery, setup and display of the Wall.
- After multiple planning meetings, the logistics of the event were set and included the temporary landscaping and general site layout, a motorcycle escort to deliver the Wall, the setup and blessing of the Wall to identify the site as hallowed ground, a fundraising dinner, the mobile Helicopter War Museum, National Guard Patriot Chopper display, the opening and closing ceremonies and the playing of taps each evening.

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- The event was assembled and officially opened to the public at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, July 3, 2008. Throughout the long holiday weekend, the Wall saw thousands of visitors, at all hours of the day and night; they came to pay their respect, leaving special mementos for fallen family and friends and many made a rubbing of that special name on the Wall. The eternal flame was extinguished at the closing ceremony on Sunday evening and the Wall was dismantled and removed Monday, July 7, 2008.
- During the 4-day presentation of the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall, the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation successfully raised \$25,000 towards their proposed Veterans Memorial to be built in Thornton.
- On August 8, 2008, the Mayor received a letter from Greg Welsh, the Wall Manager. In that letter Mr. Welsh stated that "in all the places we have been, our Wall has never been displayed in such a grand manner than in Thornton. The park like setting and the eternal flame added to the serenity and dignity of our Wall, making it look as if it was a permanent monument in your fair city. When the time came for the Wall to be dismantled, I felt as if I was doing the 58,000 names a disservice by putting the panels back in the trailer."

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE THORNTON VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION FOR THE VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL EVENT AND PRESENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL AND EVENT ASSOCIATION'S SILVER PINNACLE AWARD.

WHEREAS, the City of Thornton and the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation committed to work together to bring the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall to Thornton, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation contracted with the nonprofit group Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard, Inc. to bring the Wall to Thornton; and

WHEREAS, the City of Thornton staff and volunteers from the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation worked cooperatively to display the Wall in an exemplary fashion from July 3, 2008 through July 7, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the City of Thornton submitted an award nomination for The Wall presentation to the International Festival & Event Association; and

WHEREAS, the International Festival & Event Association presented the City of Thornton and the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation with the Silver Pinnacle Award for "Best New Event Within An Event for the Benefit of a Charity".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THORNTON, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation is to be commended for their efforts in producing this award-winning event.
2. The Silver Pinnacle Award is hereby presented to the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation on behalf of the International Festival & Event Association.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Thornton, Colorado, on _____, 2009.

CITY OF THORNTON, COLORADO

Erik Hansen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Nancy A. Vincent, City Clerk