

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM: Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation

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PRESS RELEASE

Colorado Freedom Memorial Ground Breaking Saturday, February 2nd

Construction to begin in Aurora on the Colorado Freedom Memorial, honoring all Colorado veterans killed in action since statehood.

Aurora, Colorado, 21 Jan 2013 - Following 12-years of fund-raising, research and planning the Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation will break ground for construction of a one-of-a-kind tribute to the sacrifice made by Colorado's veterans on the battlefield. Military and Civilian dignitaries as well as Gold Star Families and the general public will gather to celebrate at 11:00am on Saturday, February 2nd at the Memorial site, 756 Telluride St. in Aurora.

"The Colorado Freedom Memorial is a long overdue recognition of the debt we owe thousands of Colorado families for the sacrifice of their loved ones to keep us free.", said Colorado Freedom Memorial Founder and President Rick Crandall. "We've spent 12 years trying to raise money for construction and researching the names that should be on the Memorial and at times it seemed like this day would never come. It's hard to describe the emotions we all feel right now."

The Memorial contains the names of all Colorado veterans killed in action since statehood in 1876, so the Spanish-American War through today. Near 6000 names make up the honor roll that will be listed on the Memorial's glass panels when it is dedicated on May 26, 2013. Because of the different ways of maintaining records over the years researching names has been a monumental task.

For the ground-breaking local Military Commanders and elected officials will be in attendance along with a color guard, singing of the national anthem and short comments. Dignitaries will move the first shovel of dirt followed by Gold Star families. Then the public will be invited to grab a shovel and dig a scoop of dirt.

"It is important to us that everyone feels like they've been a part of this journey so we're inviting anyone in attendance to be part of the ceremony. We could not have reached this point without many people carrying us along the way!", said Crandall.

The Colorado Freedom Memorial will be located in Springhill Community Park at 756 Telluride St. in Aurora. The Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation and City of Aurora have signed a 25-year lease agreement that requires the CFM Foundation to maintain the Memorial site and assist in management of events and programs there. For more details on the Colorado Freedom Memorial, or to schedule an interview, visit www.cfmf.net or call the CFM Office at 303-248-3990.

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