



**Media Contacts:**

Rick Crandall, Colorado Freedom Memorial  
P: 303-919-0513 | [rc1430@comcast.net](mailto:rc1430@comcast.net)

Amy Larson, CSG|PR  
P: 303-433-7020 | [alarson@csg-pr.com](mailto:alarson@csg-pr.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Colorado Freedom Memorial Panels Mark Historic “Journey Home” with Community Celebration in Fort Morgan, Colo., on April 8**

Memorial panels to arrive at permanent site in Aurora escorted by Colorado Patriot Guard, Federal Protection Agency, supporters and more

**April 2, 2013 – AURORA, COLORADO** –The more than 20 glass panels engraved with the names of nearly 6,000 of Colorado’s fallen soldiers that will make up the [Colorado Freedom Memorial](#) will make the historic journey home, arriving at the permanent memorial site in Aurora on April 8, 2013. The panels were created by one of the leading glass manufacturing companies in the world, Viracon, at their Minnesota facility. Along the way, these distinguished panels will be escorted with the diligence and dedication due to any fallen soldier returning home.

The Colorado Freedom Memorial is the first memorial of its kind in the country. The memorial will rise in honor of all of Colorado’s fallen soldiers from every war dating back to the Spanish American War (1898), and every branch of the military. The result of more than 12 years of private fundraising and donations, the Colorado Freedom Memorial will be dedicated to Colorado, and Colorado’s Gold Star Families on Memorial Day Weekend, May 26, 2013.

Upon arrival in Julesburg, Colo., the truck transporting the panels will be met by the Federal Protection Agency which will be providing a Dignified Honors Escort for the panels through Colorado to arrival at the memorial site in Aurora. The transport will stop in Fort Morgan, Colo., for a community “welcome home” celebration at City Park in downtown Fort Morgan beginning at 9 a.m.

The Fort Morgan celebration will feature law enforcement escorts, choral performances, local veterans, area mayors and more. Upon departure from Fort Morgan, the convoy will be joined by the Colorado Patriot Guard Riders, who have pledged to assist in the escort of the panels.

“Many of the men and women who are honored on the Memorial are buried in American cemeteries overseas, or their remains were not recovered,” said Colorado Freedom Memorial Founder Rick Crandall. “We’ve always felt that these glass panels allow us to bring these heroes home, if by name only, and they deserve a journey worthy of their sacrifice.”

Upon arrival at the memorial site in Aurora, the installation of the panels will begin.

A complete breakdown of the Colorado Freedom Memorial journey follows:

**Monday, April 8:**

**7 a.m. (approx.):** Truck carrying Colorado Freedom Memorial Panels arrives in Julesburg, and met by Federal Protection Agency for escort to Fort Morgan and Aurora

**9 a.m.:** Fort Morgan Community Celebration  
City Park  
400 Main Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701

**10 a.m.:** Panels depart Fort Morgan along with Federal Protection Agency and Colorado Patriot Guard Riders

**12 p.m.:** Arrival at Colorado Freedom Memorial site\*\*  
756 N. Telluride Street, Aurora, CO 80111

\*\*While media are welcome and encouraged to be onsite for the panel arrival in Aurora, we ask that this not be promoted to the public, for security purposes.

**PHOTOS/VIDEO:** Each step of the journey home will provide excellent opportunities for photography and video coverage. For on-site assistance on April 8, contact Rick Crandall at: 303-919-0513 or Amy Larson at 303-217-3154.

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