

Collegedale veterans make plans for memorial

Vietnam vet leading effort to honor those who have served

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When Phil Garver travels, he stops at all the veterans' memorials along the way. During a trip two years ago, a memorial in a small Kansas town inspired a dream for one in Collegedale.

The Vietnam veteran has been working with the Veterans of Foreign Wars on the memorial ever since.

"We have residents in Collegedale who fought in World War II, Vietnam and the Gulf War," said Mr. Garver, dean of the school of physical education at Southern Adventist University. "This is something I think is important for the whole community. We're getting the VFW involved as much as possible because it's most meaningful to them."

Brad Hyden, VFW post commander, thinks that the memorial will provide veteran issues awareness to the community.

"Patriotic things are always good," he said. "And it will add to the beauty of our community."

The memorial will consist of five stars on pedestals, one for each branch of the military, with a flagpole in the center. Flags of all 50 states will surround the stars. Hardware representing each branch of service, such as tanks and helicopters, will sit in front. The hardware will be donated, as it is to all memorials, Mr. Garver said.

The memorial also will have a mon-

ument for conscientious objectors, soldiers who refused to carry weapons.

"That's kind of unique," said Mr. Hyden, also a junior theology major at Southern Adventist University.

Bill Magoon, city manager, said the city is eager to help with the memorial.

"It's a fabulous thing to have in our community," he said. "The city is working with the organization on the property and then we'll work with them to construct it."

Funding is still in question, but possibilities include selling bricks that will surround the central flagpole and selling the 50 flagpoles. Mr. Magoon said the city will help with the funding as well.

"We won't use any city money, but we'll use the city's capacity to channel donations so they'll be tax exempt," he said.

A committee of residents is being set up to make decisions about construction. The panel will study the design and discuss the location.

"The VFW wants something like this out here and we have some designs of how it will look. We just have to get the committee together," Mr. Garver said.

Mr. Garver hopes that the memorial will be built on the Collegedale Greenway, which will be visible from Apison Pike but accessible only by foot.

"We want people to leave this contemplating things, not just getting in their cars and driving off," he said.