

RECOGNITION

# Centennial now home to Veterans Wall

## Family, friends can buy a tile commemorating military service

BY JON POMPIA  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

A recent addition to the Centennial High School history courtyard will pay tribute to high school graduates who went on to serve in the military.

The Centennial Alumni Foundation Veterans Wall was conceived by foundation members as a way to “recognize the contributions to our

country and the freedom we enjoy,” said Chuck Mastrini. “It was our intention to recognize not only Centennial veterans but the greater sacrifice and commitment by all veterans from Pueblo high schools and the surrounding communities.”

The wall will host laser produced 3-by-6-inch ceramic tiles, in the primary colors of the school the veteran attended, with his or her name

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and branch and dates of service.

Tiles may be purchased for \$25.

“Our primary mission was to keep the cost of ceramic tiles as inexpensive as possible,” Mastrini said. “More importantly, if a veteran is unable to pay for a tile, we will waive the cost. We want to reach out and find veterans who might be

**SEE WALL, 2B**



COURTESY PHOTO

The Centennial Alumni Foundation Veterans Wall aims to honor veterans from Pueblo high schools and the surrounding communities.

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distressed and recognize them.”

Mastrini said the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce has been instrumental in contacting area veteran groups to spread the word about the wall, which was formally dedicated during a Thursday morning ceremony that attracted more than 100 attendees.

“Centennial High School has a long list of distinguished alumni that have valiantly served in the military over the past 140 years,” said Principal Javin Baker. “We also recognize that our alumni represent only a portion of the men and women of Pueblo that have made the decision to serve our

country in this way.

“And so, today, we dedicate this wall to commemorate all the brave men and women who have served in our armed forces.”

Added District Attorney Jeff Chostner, who served as master of ceremonies for the unveiling, “I’m proud to be here to recognize the veterans that have served their community. This is really a unique wall here in the courtyard and it is remarkable what they’ve done to recognize the sacrifices military men and women have given.”

The wall is anchored by a colorful motif incorporating a bald eagle, flags and the phrases

“USA” and “United We Stand.”

Already, the wall hosts a number of tiles, including a Home of Heroes section acknowledging Pueblo’s four Medal of Honor recipients (in gold) and several Bulldogs, including John A. LaVoo, a Marine Corps captain who was killed in action during the Vietnam War.

Those interested in purchasing a tile for themselves, a family member or friend are asked to visit [www.centennialalumni.org](http://www.centennialalumni.org) and fill out the appropriate form.

For more information, call 671-1852.  
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