

A Place of Honor: New Eden war memorial honors generations of service, sacrifice

By Eric Goodell, Times-News — June 30, 2026

EDEN — This town now has a place to reflect, remember and pay respects to those who sacrificed for their country.



Vietnam War veteran Keith Huettig stands Saturday, June 27, 2026, in front of “A Place of Honor” war memorial in Eden City Park, which he helped spearhead. ERIC GOODELL, TIMES-NEWS

The gazebo-like war memorial named “A Place of Honor” was dedicated Saturday in front of a large crowd and got its start from a photograph.

Years ago, Vietnam War veteran Keith Huettig saw a photo of a former war memorial that once stood in Eden City Park. The wooden memorial, weather-worn and taken down without replacement, sparked Huettig’s interest in rebuilding something.

Two of his uncles served during WWII.

“For many years, I thought our community needed a place where veterans could be honored, where families could reflect, and future generations could learn the true cost of liberty,” he wrote. “A Place of Honor was created to serve that purpose.”

Each veteran’s name on the monument, he said, is a story of “courage, duty, sacrifice and love of country.”



People congregate in the newly constructed war memorial in Eden, "A Place of Honor," Saturday, June 27, 2026, during its dedication.

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As community interest grew, the project ballooned into something larger than first imagined.

"What I originally thought would take six months turned into a three-year journey," Huettig wrote.

He's proud of the results. "It will generate interest," Huettig told the Times-News. "It will generate education."

The memorial, he said, is worthy of having students or other groups take field trips to learn about the wars the United States has fought in and to see the names of about 700 veterans in the memorial with ties to the Hazelton-Eden area, about 500 of them from the WWII era.

The memorial isn't just for the young. Many older people, Huettig said, can learn things as well.

The project was a three-pronged effort: planning the physical structure, along with the fundraising that came with it; researching and writing stories about each war; and gathering the names of veterans.

A crowd that gathered for Saturday's dedication heard speakers including former Idaho Attorney General Jim Jones, a Valley High School graduate; Jerome County Commissioner Art Watkins and Robyn Achilles, executive director of Friends of Minidoka.



Dave Stone sings the National Anthem at Saturday's dedication of a war memorial at Eden City Park.

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A man dressed as John Adams also told the story about the Founding Father, who saw that the pursuit of liberty was worth the risk and never lost faith in the cause of freedom.

The metal-topped memorial, with panels providing information on wars beginning with the Revolutionary War, was among the event's highlights.



From left, Keith Huettig, Robyn Alliches, executive director of Friends of Minidoka; and Jim Jones, former Idaho attorney general; spoke at the Saturday, June 27, 2026, dedication of the "Place of Honor" war memorial at Eden City Park.

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"For me, it's awesome," said Steve Ottley, a Desert Storm veteran from Burley, "because it memorializes all the veterans who have served, every war that we've ever fought."

Monica Lopez spent time reading and studying the information on the panels. Being part of the community since 1984, she saw the names of classmates who joined the military.

"This is a great tribute for people in this area," she said.

World War II veteran Donald Atkinson attended the dedication, being sure to pass by his name on the memorial.

"I feel fortunate," Atkinson said, noting that there aren't as many veterans from that conflict still alive.

The memorial will continue to grow, Huettig said, as the names of new veterans, or newfound veterans with connections to the community, will be added on Veterans Day.

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