

Kern County WWII Veterans Memorial

To Whom It May Concern,

Approximately 4 years ago at a small table during a local veteran event, a few volunteers and one WWII Veteran were sitting together sharing stories and catching up over coffee. At some point the discussion turned into Kern County's impact and involvement in WWII and the war efforts. The conversation evolved into questioning why there was no WWII memorial in Kern County and then quickly turned into..."how do we make it happen?" From a sketched out idea on a coffee napkin and a whirlwind of ideas came to a drive, push and near completion of what we now see. We can now visit and honor Kern's WWII Veterans and citizens' efforts during WWII at the Kern County WWII Veterans Memorial (KCWWIIVM) located at Jastro Park, 2900 Truxtun Ave. in Bakersfield, California.

To transform this idea into a reality, the mission has been to build a permanent tribute honoring all Kern County WWII Veterans and those who supported them. Our continued vision has been to serve our community with a beautiful memorial honoring Kern County WWII Veterans that will be a place of reverence, remembrance, and education for all who visit. The KCWWIIVM Board believes we are doing just that. It has been imperative to the board and our volunteers that the legacy of those who served our country during the dark days of World War II remains alive and well in the heart of Kern County. (See PP for memorial description details)

On December 10, 2022 the Kern County WWII Veterans Memorial was unveiled. The memorial is a solemn space where our community and visitors can reflect upon the immense sacrifices made by our local heroes during World War II and learn about Kern County's efforts towards the war effort.

Over the past 18 months the KCWWIIVM board has been completing the last needed items and developing ideas to continue honoring our WWII Veterans, Kern County's war efforts and educating the public on the Greatest Generation. The memorial will be complete with its final engraving of Veteran names and unveiled on December 7, 2024.

Along with the final engraving of local WWII Veteran names, the board has developed the idea of the "Avenue of Heroes." The Avenue of Heroes is a project to have signage and recognition for Truxtun Ave. from Jastro Park to the Amtrak Station. In this span of Truxtun Ave., there is the Kern County WWII Veterans Memorial, Bakersfield Korean War Memorial, Bakersfield Peace Officers' Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, and all inclusive Kern County Veterans Memorial.

Should you chose to support the KCWWIIVM your support will go towards:

- Memorial preservation
 - Maintenance, repairs, improvements and/or modifications
- The completion of the "Avenue of Heroes"
 - City Recognition & Signage
- The development of educational components
 - Interactive virtual exhibits
 - School curriculum

Our efforts are vitally important as are just one generation away from a generation that saved the world. In a world that is in such great unrest it is imperative that along with honoring our heroes we educate our youth and our community about why their sacrifice should never be forgotten.

Thank you.