

# INDIAN WELLS CITY COUNCIL

## July 2, 2025



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**To:** City Council  
**From:** City Manager Department  
**Prepared by:** Catherine Manning, Management Assistant  
**Subject:** **Memorializing Eisenhower Walk of Honor Resident Eligibility Requirements**

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Council **APPROVES** eligibility requirements for the Eisenhower Walk of Honor inclusion; and

**FINDS** the action exempt from CEQA review under CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3).

### BACKGROUND:

The Indian Wells Eisenhower Walk of Honor is a living testimony to the distinguished military leader and President who made Indian Wells a part-time home. The Walk of Honor is a tribute to all the men and women who served in the nation's armed forces. Included in the Walk of Honor are U.S. veterans living and deceased, that have served in the United States Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy, Marine Corps, and Space Force. In addition, members of the Merchant Marines and Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) also qualify. To be included in the Walk of Honor, you must be residents of Indian Wells, for a minimum of one year. The City recognizes residents who served their country honorably and with integrity.

The City pays tribute to its military service members through the Veteran's Memorial and Wall of Honor, a solemn and enduring symbol of gratitude. Conceptualized in 1999, constructed in 2000, and expanded in 2003, the memorial features seven-foot-high granite "Walls of Honor" inscribed with the names of Indian Wells residents who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

Each year, during the Veteran's Day Ceremony, new names are added to the wall, ensuring that the sacrifices and service of local veterans are permanently honored and remembered by the community.

Councilmember Sanders requested staff review the eligibility requirements for possible inclusion of other categories of veterans that are identified by the federal government onto the wall. 38 U.S.C. Sec. 101(2) defines "veteran" as a person who served in the

active military, naval or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

In keeping with the Indian Wells' commitment to honoring all who have served, the Wall of Honor will continue to evolve to reflect federal standards for veteran recognition. Staff recommend moving forward, residents who receive official recognition as a veteran by the Department of Veterans Affairs (e.g., Form DD214) and meet the City's minimum residency requirement will be eligible for inscription on the Wall of Honor.

This inclusive approach ensures that all who have served honorably in the United States Armed Forces are acknowledged for their dedication and sacrifice, preserving their legacy within our community for generations to come.

### **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA):**

The action is not a project within the meaning of Section 15378 of the State of California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") Guidelines, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change in the environment, directly or indirectly; and that the action is nonetheless exempt from the requirements of CEQA in that the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (14 CCR 15061 (b)(3).)

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact on the recommendation.

### **OPTIONS:**

The Council has the following options:

1. The Council approves the inclusion of those who receive official recognition as veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs (e.g., Form DD214) and meet the City's minimum residency requirement will be eligible for inscription on the Wall of Honor.
2. Provides alternative direction.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Application for Inclusion
2. Resolution