

July 12, 2009

Wichita Veterans Memorial Park Facts (rev 3)

The following facts can be used when discussing or leaving comments to online articles on the Wichita Veterans Memorial Park.

1. This is a Veterans Memorial Park and we feel that to earn a place in this park you must serve in the U.S. Armed Forces taking an oath of allegiance to the U.S. of America.
2. We already have a Vietnam Memorial in the park.
3. The City owns the land but other than landscaping all the memorials in the park were built, paid for and are maintained by Veterans Organizations with the exception of the Flag Pavilion which was paid for with Federal Funds and was renovated by a Veterans Organization with \$250,000 of Federal HUD money.
4. All names on any memorials were either citizens of Sedgwick County or the City of Wichita at the time of the conflict being memorialized.
5. The South Vietnamese Community wants to memorialize the troops of their former foreign country in an American Veterans Park. We don't have a problem with their memorial, just the placement of it. It doesn't belong in Veterans Memorial Park, put it in another park.
6. Our park is also limited in size and we need all available space to memorialize the American Armed Forces of past and future conflicts.
7. This has nothing to do with race, color, creed, religion or anything else other than the fact that you need to have served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the time/conflict being memorialized to earn the right to be memorialized in this park. Our opponents apparently like to accuse us of racism because they don't have any facts to intelligently debate the issue.
8. The City of Wichita should have a set of governing rules concerning Veterans Memorial Park or the City should have consulted and listened to the Veterans Organizations on this issue instead of trying to install this controversial memorial over the objections of the Veterans Community of Wichita. The City's handling of this issue has done a disservice to the Veterans Community of Wichita by pitting them against another local Community and causing both Communities grief & distress that could have been avoided.

KSVAC
John Wilson