## Innovative Idea Crist Mortuary and Mountain View Memorial Park Innovative Idea 2010

## Etched In Stone ... A Permanent Memorial for Vietnam Veterans of Boulder County

In July 2008 the Dignity Memorial® Vietnam Wall, a traveling replica of the Vietnam Wall in Washington DC, spent three consecutives days in Boulder, CO at Mountain View Memorial Park. While in the park, over 800 visitors spent time at the Wall and many left personal tributes at and around the wall. These memorial items were recorded and vaulted.

Following the experience artist Nick Conda expressed an interest in designing a permanent memorial to honor the Vietnam Veteran's of Boulder County, who gave their lives during the conflict. Crist Mortuary and Mountain View Memorial Park's General Manager, Michael P. Greenwood made Nick's wishes a reality.

The process began when Mike Greenwood organized a committee consisting of local veterans, Dignity Memorial staff members and local philanthropic leaders. Many of these committee members had been a part of the planning committee for the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall. Together they helped to create the permanent memorial and the dedication ceremony for it. Avenues for involvement from the larger community were created so that this would become Boulder's everlasting memorial to the Vietnam Veterans.

On Memorial Day 2010 the permanent memorial was unveiled with ceremonies at Mountain View Memorial Park. Unfortunately, severe weather conditions dictated that ceremonies be moved across the street to Crist Mortuary. Regardless, over two hundred attendees participated in the dedication which was lead by active duty veterans, community leaders and local Boy Scout troops.

The vault containing the artifacts left at the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Memorial in 2008 now rests beneath the abstract design, symbolizing and honoring an era that is forever "Etched In Stone."