

## Veterans Memorial

Rick Hutcheson, a long-time Grimes resident and disabled Vietnam War veteran, was interested in creating a memorial commemorating the service of all Grimes veterans. Though officially not a public work of art (the memorial is on private property and was created and funded privately), Hutcheson says the memorial is open to the public at any time to visit.

"My mother really wanted a rock here, and so did I," Rick says. "The City wasn't interested in pursuing the project, so I decided to do it on my own. I started thinking about the project and got started in August 2015 and have been plowing ahead since then."

The memorial is located at 100 N.E. Second St. in Grimes and features a painted memorial rock, colored concrete slab, lighted area for nighttime viewing, metal cutouts and signs, landscaping, and benches for seating. The area is accessible and has public sidewalk access and rear parking access.

Alan Newman was the painter hired for the project. The artwork depicts a helicopter landing in Vietnam and troops marching

through the jungle. On the south side of the rock is the USS Iowa on top, a Coast Guard cutter on the center, and the Bismarck sunk below the surface on the bottom. On the front is the tomb of the unknown soldier. In 2021, the rock was repainted by Damon Clapper from Dallas Center.

"This project is being done on behalf of the American Legion and all of the veterans. My goal is to honor all those who served," says Newman.



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