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## **Arapahoe County Veterans Service Office receives \$23,292 from the State of Colorado for veteran outreach**

**Littleton, Colo.** The Arapahoe County Veterans Service Office will receive \$23,292 from the Colorado General Assembly to participate in a pilot program to aid veterans in claims for earned benefits from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. Arapahoe County is one of five counties receiving the funds which have been earmarked for veteran outreach efforts.

According to the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, a survey conducted in May and June 2007 indicated that approximately 25 percent of the respondents are not registered with Veteran Affairs. This leaves approximately 106,568 Colorado veterans unregistered.

“Our goal is to increase veteran participation in the enrollment process,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Pat Noonan. “Veterans served our Country faithfully, and with the County’s help they receive support in obtaining the benefits they deserve.”

To help increase the office’s ability to help veterans attain benefits, Henry Mondragón, County Veterans Service Officer, recently earned his certification from the National Association of Veteran Service Offices. The certification gives Mondragón the ability to file claims faster on behalf of veteran clients.

The County Veterans Service Office helps veterans apply for disability, medical care and pension benefits from the VA. Studies have shown that veterans using an advocacy service such as this receive almost three times the compensation than those who go it alone.

Volunteers are needed. Call Val Purser at 303-738-7938. For more information about the Arapahoe County Veterans Service Office, call 303-636-1190 or visit [www.co.arapahoe.co.us](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us).

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**To download photos click on the following link: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CA/>**

**Captions:** 1) Henry Mondragon appointed as Arapahoe County’s Veteran Services Officer.

2) Henry “Hawk” Mondragon and Clive “Sonny” Clapsattle, served in Vietnam as riflemen in the U.S. Marine Corp.