



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Veterans Foundation of Los Gatos Seeks Public Comment on the Proposed Los Gatos Veterans Memorial

LOS GATOS, May 10, 2016 - Look around and take notice of something we really value. We can't touch it, we can't see it, we often take it for granted and yet, it is something highly respected by Americans and around the world. Liberty.

The fact that Americans are free is a testament to someone else's leadership who came way before our time. Those who played a role with America's *Declaration of Independence* could have been every bit like the innovators of Silicon Valley – creative, thoughtful, brilliant and inspirational. Liberty has touched tens of thousands of hands before we got to experience it. And if we track it back to the first sets of eyes that saw it, we find others who had a vision and really understood what it took to lead. They knew how to motivate the hearts and minds when they spoke. Regrettably, those who have followed also know all too well, that freedom isn't free. In fact, sometimes, defending our liberty results in the ultimate sacrifice.

The Veterans Foundation of Los Gatos is moving closer in their quest to build a Veterans Memorial at the Town of Los Gatos Civic Center, and is seeking public comment on two finalist design proposals.

The Veterans Memorial will be a tribute to the men and women who have honorably served the nation in the United States Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines, in support of natural disaster recovery, humanitarian aid, and in defense of America's freedom.

The final proposals for the Veterans Memorial, each designed by two internationally acclaimed artists, can be viewed on the Town of Los Gatos website, at www.LosGatosCA.gov/VeteransMemorial. There, the public can view and provide comment on each of the proposed designs. The public comment period closes on June 3, 2016 at 5:00 P.M.

Artist Lorenzo Ghiglieri has proposed a bronze sculpture titled *The Brave Patriot*. The proposed memorial design depicts the bald eagle in flight carrying the American flag, with the eagle representing the free spirit, power, and grace exhibited by the great birds. The bronze eagle sculpture sits upon a pentagon concrete podium that stands in front of a wall composed of concrete and rustic steel. The statuary proposed to be placed in a circular enclave that includes bronze reliefs and viewer seating.

The *Flame of Liberty*, designed by artist Frank Kocian Morris, is a sculpture of an Eternal Flame inspired by the flame of the Statue of Liberty. The flame sculpture is proposed to be made of a thin, steel wire frame, with sections within the frame filled with thick, transparent, champagne-colored, hand-poured antique glass evoking the style of a lighthouse lantern, or a stained-glass window, with an outer layer of tough, poly-carbonate clear plastic protecting the glass from damage. The interior of the flame sculpture is open, and nestled inside the flame is a second, smaller bronze sculpture of a "Soldier's Cross", a nationally recognized symbol in the form of a helmet resting on an inverted rifle, representing the service and ultimate sacrifice of America's Veterans. A serpentine wall would serve as the backdrop to the sculpture, with interior lighting in the flame casting a dramatic nighttime glow on the memorial structure.

In each of the two memorial designs, the five branches of the United States military, and the Merchant Marines are proposed to be represented with either bronze insignias or bas reliefs that would adorn the Memorial. In addition, the Memorial would also recognize Emergency Services First Responders personnel who so often combine forces with the United States military in playing a pivotal role in homeland security.

The Veterans Foundation is scheduled to present its final recommendation for a Memorial proposal, incorporating community and stakeholder input and public comment, for Town Council review and consideration on June 21.

The proposed Veterans Memorial would provide a place to honor the service men and women who have served, those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and those who continue their courageous work around the world today.

The Veterans Foundation of Los Gatos is a 501(c)3 non-profit local enterprise staffed by volunteers consisting of veterans, military advisors, parents of active service members and citizens who desire to honor, express gratitude and support those who support America's freedom.

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If you desire more information, please contact:

Ellen Manzo

Board Member, Veterans Foundation of Los Gatos

ellenmanzo@gmail.com • 203-561-8888 • www.honoravet.org