

# Gilroy Veterans Memorial Hall

South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District

December 2020

## Message from the Executive Director

# Pandemic Keeps Us Apart, But Gilroy Veterans Hall Is Still Here to Serve Local Veterans

To protect public health and slow the rate of transmission of COVID-19, the Gilroy Veterans Memorial Building, including the Vets Bar and Friday Bingo, has remained closed. The only activity at the Hall is for essential services — blood drives, food prep and packaging for vulnerable populations.

The VA Mobile Team has also been on-site to provide flu shots and the Santa Clara County Vet Service Officers (Michael Garcia and Natalie Lara) have also held outside office hours to collect paper work only. We are publicizing these activities on the Gilroy Vets Hall Facebook page, on Nextdoor.com and asking the commanders of both posts to help spread the word.

The little activity that has gone on at the Hall has all followed health protocols. We don't know when the Hall will be able to re-open, as the health guidelines are fluid and ever changing. And the last thing we want to do is put our veterans and their families at risk.

But during this time we are still here for veterans. If you need help with VA benefits, getting groceries or other services please don't hesitate to call and leave a message at 408-842-3838 or email us at [sscvmd@gmail.com](mailto:sscvmd@gmail.com). We will do our best to connect you to those who can help.

## SSCVMD Board of Directors

The Gilroy Veterans Hall is owned by the South Santa Clara

Valley Memorial District and operated by its Board of Directors. In lieu of an election, John Ceballos and Ermelindo Puente were re-appointed by the County Board of Supervisors to the District Board earlier this month.

Director Ray Sanchez retired from the Board after more than 15 years of service to local veterans and the Gilroy Vets Hall. Thank you Director Sanchez for your service! Rita Delgado has applied for the position, with the SSCVMD Board's support. The County Board of Supervisors is expected to consider her application later this month.

## Veterans Day 2020

Obviously this year's Veterans Day was more subdued due to the pandemic, but thanks VFW Post 6309 for hosting the event our community was still able to honor and celebrate our local veterans. Highlights included a speech by Mayor Roland Velasco, the playing of the Star-Spangled Banner and Taps by trumpeter Tom Brozene and the unveiling and dedication of the new Patriotic Garden by the South Valley Fleurs Garden Club.

The garden, which is a tribute to the Armed Forces in America, includes a Blue Star Memorial By-Way plaque. If you haven't had a chance to see the new Patriotic Garden and plaque it's located directly in front of the Hall on the corner of 6th and Egleberry. Be sure to check it out. It's really beautiful.

The Veterans Day event was also recorded and available for viewing on the Gilroy Vets Hall Facebook page.

## New Branch of Service

Did you know there is a new branch of service? Launched December 2019, Space Force's mission is to provide space capabilities and to protect U.S. and allied security interests in space. It will also provide tactical support to ground combat units with surveillance, communications, and geopositioning data while seeking to deter adversaries from acquiring military advantages from orbit. On April 18, 2020, eighty-six graduating cadets from the Air Force Academy won prized commissions directly into the new service.

The new branch finally released its logo and motto on July 22, 2020. A Space Force flag is now proudly displayed at the Gilroy Vets Hall with the other branches of military.

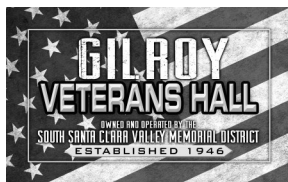


## Gilroy Veterans Memorial Hall

74 W. 6th St., Suite A  
Gilroy, CA 95020

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Office Hours: 9am-1pm weekdays  
[www.GilroyVeteransHall.org](http://www.GilroyVeteransHall.org)  
Facebook: Gilroy Veterans Hall



South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District  
Gilroy Veterans Memorial Building  
74 W. 6th St. , Suite A  
Gilroy, CA 95020

## Improvement Update

During the pandemic, staff has been busy maintaining the building. In addition to general and deep cleaning, a new commercial ice machine was installed, minor roof repairs were made and an electrical engineer conducted a survey and developed plans for an overhaul of the electrical system.

The bathroom remodel project also went out to bid. However, the bids came back three times the estimated budget. As a result, staff is working with the architect to scale back the scope of work. The original scope included an electrical overhaul and plumbing repairs to other parts of the building. The new scope will just be the bathroom remodel and is expected to go out to bid by the end of the year. Hopefully, construction can begin before the pandemic is over and the building opens.

As a result, our fundraising efforts must continue if we hope to make all the necessary repairs.

## Building Improvement Campaign

The Campaign to raise money for the necessary renovations to this historic building is going strong, but must continue. And donations are now even more important because the loss of rental revenue suffered during the pandemic.

To date we've raised \$102,285. Many of you have also generously donated and we thank you. Every donation gets us a step closer to our goal.

If you want to donate mail checks, made out to South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District (SSCVMD), 74 W. 6th Street, Suite A, Gilroy, CA 95020.

You can also donate through our web site at [www.sscvmdistrict.org/capital-improvement-campaign](http://www.sscvmdistrict.org/capital-improvement-campaign) and click on the "DONATE NOW" button.

Charitable contributions to SSCVMD are tax-deductible under section 170(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code. Tax ID #26-2910989

*Thank you!*

# Building Improvement Campaign Contributors

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors | \$50,000 |
| VFW Post 6309                              | \$10,000 |
| Habing Funeral Home                        | \$5,000  |
| VFW Flag Pole Fund                         | \$5,000  |
| CalColor Growers                           | \$3,753  |
| Chet Kirby                                 | \$1,000  |
| Gabe Perez                                 | \$1,300  |
| Sandy Moretti (Sandy's Café)               | \$1,200  |
| Maple Leaf RV Park                         | \$1,000  |
| SDRMA                                      | \$1,000  |
| In Honor of Jack Sturla                    | \$1,000  |
| Tom Yamano                                 | \$1,000  |
| Morgan Hill Freedom Fest                   | \$994    |
| Joe Loquiao                                | \$525    |
| H&R Block                                  | \$520    |
| American Legion 217 Aux.                   | \$500    |
| Marie Blankley                             | \$500    |
| Laurence Connell                           | \$500    |
| Happy Days Reunion of the 60s              | \$500    |
| Heinzen Manufacturing Int'l                | \$500    |
| William Lane                               | \$500    |
| Joan Marfia Lewis                          | \$500    |
| Danny Mitchell                             | \$500    |
| Pinnacle Bank                              | \$500    |
| James A Ward Law Offices                   | \$500    |
| In Honor of Bud Collom                     | \$475    |
| VFW Post 6309 Auxiliary                    | \$363    |

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Jim Kroske                                      | \$300 |
| Combat Vets Motorcycle Association Chapter 33-4 | \$250 |
| Deborah Cottingham                              | \$250 |
| Richard Gomer                                   | \$250 |
| Joe Gonzales                                    | \$250 |
| John Perez, DDS                                 | \$250 |
| Gary Rocchi                                     | \$250 |
| In honor of Frank "Poncho" Sanchez              | \$250 |
| Steve McWilliams                                | \$210 |
| Frank Biafore                                   | \$200 |
| James Gargiulo                                  | \$200 |
| William Gilmore                                 | \$200 |
| Mercy Goold                                     | \$200 |
| Allan Hale                                      | \$200 |
| Jose Perez                                      | \$200 |
| Alfred "Ted" Viola                              | \$200 |
| Carol Yamane                                    | \$200 |
| Alfred Alciati                                  | \$100 |
| William Allan Jr.                               | \$100 |
| Margie Ayala                                    | \$100 |
| Barbara Bottini                                 | \$100 |
| John Ceballos                                   | \$100 |
| Thomas & Marla Chavez                           | \$100 |
| Frank Corocco                                   | \$100 |
| Keith Davis                                     | \$100 |

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|---------------------------|-------|
| Bob Diaz                  | \$100 |
| Robert Elia               | \$100 |
| Phil Garcia               | \$100 |
| Patrick Goold             | \$100 |
| William Maquinalez        | \$100 |
| Raul Mendoza              | \$100 |
| Samuel & Terry Palmisano  | \$100 |
| Edward Perez              | \$100 |
| Denise Phillips McElhiney | \$100 |
| Ermelindo Puente          | \$100 |
| Tom Roach                 | \$100 |
| AB Simmons                | \$100 |
| Craig & Loraine Simmons   | \$100 |
| Sons of Retirement #119   | \$100 |
| South Bay Metals          | \$100 |
| Fernie Valdez             | \$100 |
| Harold Van Winkle         | \$100 |
| David & Laurie Washer     | \$100 |
| Richard Young             | \$100 |
| Dennis West               | \$100 |
| Mary Basile               | \$50  |
| Richard Stewart           | \$50  |
| Robert Goldman            | \$36  |
| Joan Hill                 | \$25  |
| Ruby Diaz                 | \$20  |
| Wayne Wunningham          | \$20  |
| Samuel Miceli             | \$15  |
| Camille McCormack         | \$5   |

## VFW Auxiliary Post 6309

Our Auxiliary was able to elect new officers for the 2020-21 year.

We will start to have our meetings by Zoom conference. Next meeting is Jan. 11, 2021.

We want to thank all who have always supported us in raising monies for our Veterans, weather it was our Bingo Snack Bar, Yard Sales, Bake Sales or the annual Burrito Run New Year's Day.

Our best wishes go out to you and your families at this Holiday Season. Be safe!

## Veterans Need Assistance?

*Please reach out to your Post Commander, Auxiliary President or one of the contacts below if you need assistance.*

**Gilroy Veterans Hall** — 408-842-3838 (voicemails checked daily) or [sscvmd@gmail.com](mailto:sscvmd@gmail.com).

**Santa Clara County Veteran Service Representatives** — 408-918-4980 (They're working from home, but check voicemail regularly. Or you can send an email.)

**Natalie Lara** — [natalie.lara@vets.sccgov.org](mailto:natalie.lara@vets.sccgov.org)

**Michael Garcia** — [michael.garcia01@vets.sccgov.org](mailto:michael.garcia01@vets.sccgov.org)

**Veterans Crisis Line**—1-800-273-8255, press 1

**VA Healthcare**—877-222-8387

**VA Benefits**—800-827-1000