

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. 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

Christine West, Executive Director
Office: 408.842.3838
Christine@SSCVMemorialDistrict.org

Office Hours: 9am-1pm weekdays
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 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

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 Wingham	\$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.

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

Michael Garcia — michael.garcia01@vets.sccgov.org

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

VA Healthcare—877-222-8387

VA Benefits—800-827-1000