

## Legion Hall Restoration Update #9

The design for the seismic retrofit of Crockett's Memorial Hall (Legion Hall) will be presented to the District Board of the Crockett Community Services District on Wednesday April 27. Structural engineer Ben Au from San Francisco firm Holmes Culley will make the presentation. The meeting will be held at the Crockett Community Center starting at 7:00 PM. Please join us. It should be very interesting!

Our March fundraiser for Memorial Hall has been a real success. A total of \$5,638 was received from 48 donors. That is an average donation of \$117, showing great generosity and real interest in restoring this historic building for return to community use. Many of the donations were made in honor or in memory of someone, often a veteran, or to honor "all those who have fought for our freedom". Such sentiments can mean a lot to people who have served or are serving now, and to their families. Thank you all very much!

Sadly, Crockett has just lost two more of our Navy veterans and an Army veteran. Frank Ochinerro served in World War II, and Tony Bacome served in the Korean War. Roy Neel also served with the Army. Among their final actions in this life, both Frank and Tony made donations to our fundraiser for the restoration of Memorial Hall, which opened in 1925 in memory of local men who died in World War I. Frank and Tony and Roy will be missed.

Our fundraiser was encouraged by the Crockett Community Foundation, which pledged to match all donations received up to \$10,000. After doubling the local donations, we now await a full \$11,276 from the Foundation. We have already been able to turn on the water at Memorial Hall, and electricity will be next. We had no reason to expect this much generosity during difficult economic times. We are very grateful to the Foundation Board and to all of you who have shown support for this project!

The 2011 *Walk of Honor for Our Veterans* will take place on Saturday, May 21. This date is officially known as "Armed Forces Day" and marks the end of Armed Forces Week in the US. Congressman George Miller is expected to attend our event along with a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. This year's event will start at the Crockett Community Center at 8:00 AM. The walk across the Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge will begin at 10:00 AM. Those who register for the event will receive a tasty BBQ lunch and a commemorative T-shirt. You can find official information and the registration form on several websites: just google "Crockett Walk of Honor" or you may go directly to [SFRWalkofHonor.com](http://SFRWalkofHonor.com). Crockett's Memorial Hall will also be open that day for inspection from 8 AM to 2 PM, so please stop by to see the engineer's drawings on display in front of the great arched windows, newly unveiled. Proceeds from the Walk of Honor will be split equally this year to benefit our Memorial Hall restoration project and to benefit the good work of the Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley. ConocoPhillips is the principal organizer of this third annual event, and the Crockett Community Foundation is an official sponsor of the Walk of Honor. Please get your registrations in soon because the event may be sold out this year!

To clean Memorial Hall in preparation for the open house, a few willing volunteers are needed this Saturday (4/30) from 9 AM to noon. Acrobats and others eager to climb to great heights are needed first to sweep dust from the walls and windows before the floors can be swept and vacuumed. Debris must be carried out, and the toilets and sinks need serious cleaning. Two oak trees will be planted if we have people willing to dig the holes. On a later date in May we will want to wash the floors as best we can. If you are willing to help, please come on Saturday (4/30). It's a dirty job, but think how good it will look for the open house. It will be seen not as a

derelict property but as a promising work-in-progress!

Our earlier volunteer workparties were a big success in starting to make the grounds look attractive. Trees were pruned or removed, valves were installed for irrigation purposes, and planting areas were prepared along the sidewalks. English lavender has been planted and seeds have been sown for snapdragons, pansies, petunies and stock. Our volunteer heroes so far include Fred Clerici, Howard Adams, Mike Kirker, D'Arcy Trask, Eric Quinn, Dan Auza, Sean Skeen, Don Barton, Tom Conklin, Mark Needell, Nancy Reiser and Erin Mullen-Brosnan with her two children. Everyone's volunteer hours are greatly appreciated and help us to meet the sweat equity requirement of our Foundation grant.

And let's not overlook the extraordinary contribution being made by Larry Schwafel. You will be forgiven if you think that Memorial Hall has a lawn. It's only because Larry has been mowing the weeds that it looks green and nice. Larry has been mowing the grounds since about 1980, and that is an unbelievable number of hours volunteered. In addition to the gasoline costs, he has worn out four lawn mowers over those years and is now on his fifth! Thank you so much, Larry, for your great community service! We hope that we'll find some way to relieve you of this chore before you have to buy any more mowers. If not, how would you like a riding mower? (It may have to be from the era of your antique cars, though.)

So, those of you who can spare even a half hour this Saturday (4/30), please stop by to help. And Larry, take the day off!

Those of you receiving this update on Crockett's Memorial Hall for the first time are invited to read the previous project updates on our website: [www.town.crockett.ca.us](http://www.town.crockett.ca.us)

Dale McDonald and Kent Peterson  
Crockett CSD  
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