

Public

comment

From: Marcia Mendels <sohumgirls@asis.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 9:27 PM
To: COB
Cc: Bushnell, Michelle
Subject: Rebuilding the John Haynes Veteran's Building in Garberville

Caution: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing in support of your building the original building you promised our veterans and community. I'm disappointed that anyone has to remind you that the old building wouldn't have had to have been torn down if you had maintained it as you agreed to. You are in this situation now because you failed in your agreed-upon duty to maintain it. It costs more to replace it now because you have, once again, failed in your duty and pledges to swiftly replace it. None of this is the fault of the taxpayers in Southern Humboldt, who have paid taxes for decades with pitiful return on their money.

I am asking you to approve the original architect's plans and build it now. Our veterans and our community deserve this. We deserve much more, but this is where you need to start. Stop with the excuses and start remembering that you represent all of the taxpayers in the county.

I know and appreciate that Michelle Bushnell has done all she can to move this along. You need to work with her, as your fellow supervisor, and get this done. No more delays, no cheap or smaller substitutions. Build the one you agreed to build and do it now.

People who know me know that I'm an easy going, willing to compromise person, but you have pushed this way past any opportunity for compromise. Please do the right thing and vote to approve the architect renderings, as submitted, and get this built.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Marcia M. Mendels
Sent from my iPad

Public
Comment

From: Katja Kesti <katja.kesti@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 6:20 AM
To: COB
Subject: Board of Supervisors 25th of June - Agenda: Update on the Garberville Veterans Hall Project

Caution: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good morning,

I'm trying to make sure I can participate remotely via Zoom for today's Board of Supervisors, but to make sure my public comment will be heard, here it is in written form. Seems like Zoom requires a password but I didn't find one from County's website.

My name is Katja Kesti. I'm based in Finland, and I'm here to talk about our hopes of rebuilding the John Haynes Memorial Hall for Veterans.

John Haynes was my first cousin twice removed. When he went missing in the Philippines on his flight on the eighth of December nineteen forty-one, during his service as a pilot in the US Air Force, my great-grand-aunt Mrs. Esther Underwood lost her last living child. She had already lost three boys before John.

We can all cherish memories of our loved ones in our hearts, but we also need a place to go—to show our respect, to give and receive support and love, to share stories, joy, hope and grief.

John's remains were never found, so he doesn't have a grave, and my great-grand-aunt had no place to go to remember him. So, she made a decision.

She donated a property as a legacy in memory of John. This legacy would turn out to be the heartbeat of the community, the Memorial Hall, a home away from home for every local veteran.

We cannot overlook our basic human need for belonging, to be seen, and to be heard. For veterans, it is the community which was gently held by the John Haynes Memorial Hall.

For decades, within those minty green walls, stories were told and experiences shared by those who understand the realities of service—stories that can only be shared in a safe space.

As far as I know, the Memorial Hall has been a very important place for local veterans. I think that is something my great-grand-aunt had in mind—to build a place carrying her son's name that welcomes all veterans and their families.

As an extended family member of John Haynes and his mother Esther, it is important to me to honor his legacy by asking for the rebuilding of The John Haynes Memorial Hall, which can serve as a safe space for local veterans to gather and call home once again.

By advocating for the rebuilding, I also aim to honor and show my respect to local veterans, all of whom deserve safety and stability.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,