



WARRIOR HERITAGE

FOUNDATION

&

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERAN AFFAIRS

ELEVATING LA COUNTY THROUGH VETERAN LEADERSHIP

JANUARY 31ST, 2025

BOB HOPE PATRIOTIC HALL



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
MILITARY AND VETERAN AFFAIRS
1816 S. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, California 90015
mva.lacounty.gov



Jim Zenner
Director

January 31, 2025

Dear Honored Guest,

First of all, thank you. Thank you for taking the time to be here. Thank you for taking an interest in the veterans of Los Angeles County. And thank you for the generosity and support you've demonstrated a willingness to share on behalf of a mission dedicated to preserving and advancing the legacy of service and sacrifice our veterans have so consistently put forth.

While there's a lot of things the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs can do, there are some things from which we are restricted by law or statute from executing. That's where Warrior Heritage Foundation steps in. As a non-profit organization outside of county government, the foundation provides the fiduciary latitude Patriotic Hall and the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs needs to provide the new and existing programming the veteran community deserves.

This programming includes planning the many events hosted by our building, as well as administering popular programs like the County Veteran Service Awards, the annual autumn Open House, facilitating on-location filming, and other activities around which the community has become accustomed.

I hope you'll take a chance to review this brochure for the variety of ways in which you can become involved by supporting the wide variety of events, programs and veteran beneficiaries we intend to serve. Your generosity and support will ensure that not only existing events and programs will continue to be supported, but also other endeavors as yet to be envisioned will be realized.

So again, thank you. The mere fact of your presence speaks volumes about your motivation, the same motivating spirit of service which drives our mission here at Patriotic Hall every day.

In gratitude,


Jim Zenner, LCSW, Director
U.S. Army Veteran



PROGRAM

NIMITZ ROOM
8TH FLOOR, BOB HOPE PATRIOTIC HALL

OPENING REMARKS

JIM ZENNER
DIRECTOR, LA COUNTY MILITARY AND VETERAN AFFAIRS

IMPORTANCE OF VETERAN NETWORKS

DR. JON SHERIN
CLINICAL PROFESSOR, UCLA
PHYSIOLOGY AND BIO-BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

LA COUNTY COMMITMENT TO VETERANS

JANICE HAHN
LA COUNTY SUPERVISOR, 4TH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT

LA COUNTY MVA'S MISSION AND VISION

JIM ZENNER
DIRECTOR, LA COUNTY MILITARY AND VETERAN AFFAIRS

WARRIOR HERITAGE FOUNDATION INTRODUCTION

JUSTIN GARZA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WHF

GREG SISA
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

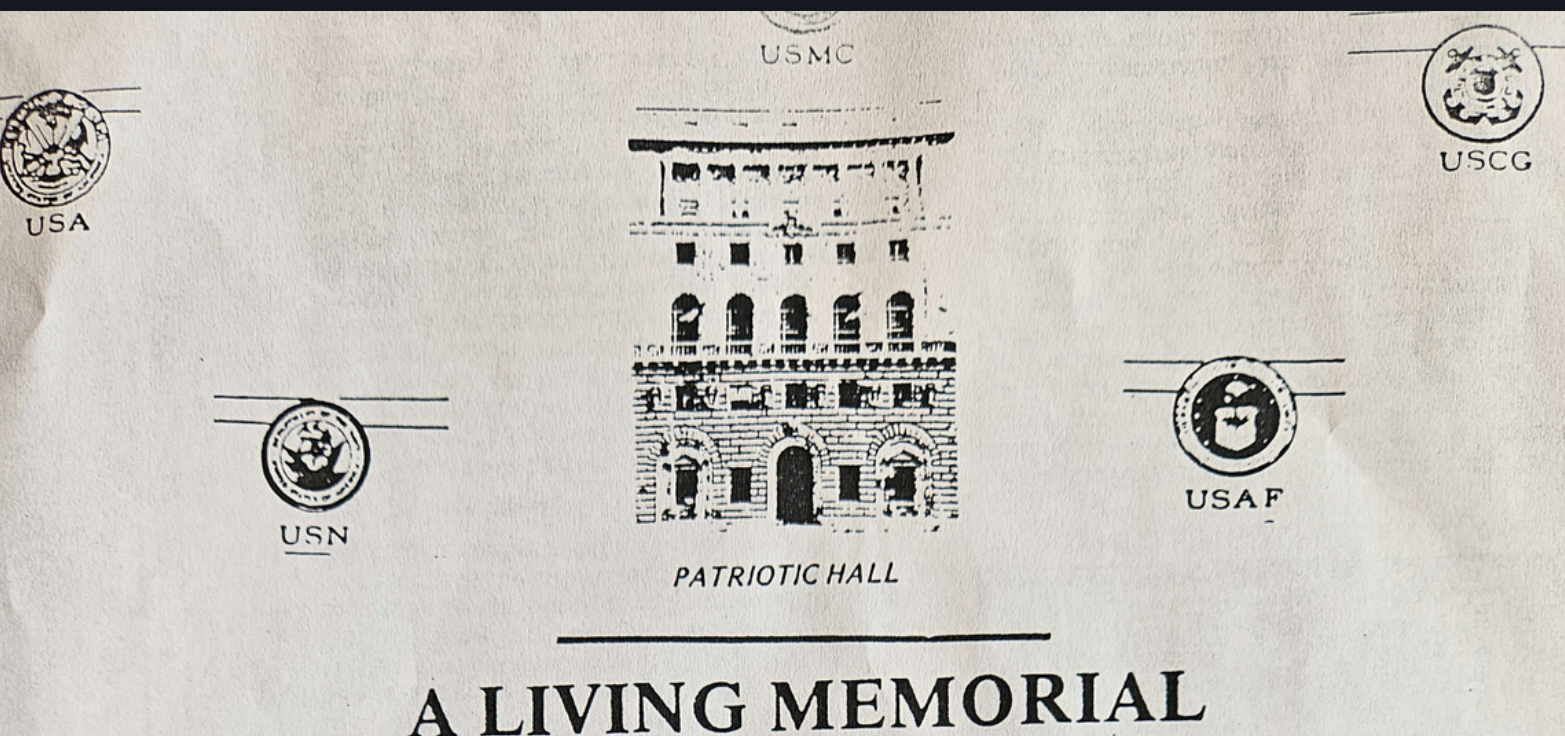
CLOSING REMARKS

JIM ZENNER AND JUSTIN GARZA

A PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE VETERANS IN LA COUNTY

The LA County Department of Military and Veteran Affairs has officially partnered with Warrior Heritage Foundation to eradicate Veteran Homelessness in LA County, elevate opportunities for veteran families in the region, and create a model for veteran services that can be scaled to meet the needs of cities across the United States. The key elements in accomplishing these goals include:

- Establishing Bob Hope Patriotic Hall as a central location for all resources necessary for LA County service members and veterans to succeed in their communities.
- Working collaboratively on current MVA initiatives as well as implementing preventative measures and programs that instill confidence in service members and their families to maximize their potential post-military.
- For MVA, having a private non-profit partner like the Warrior Heritage Foundation allows for greater flexibility and swifter response in supporting veteran issues around LA County.
- Preserving the history of Bob Hope Patriotic Hall and all of the relics inside is of national importance. This is a key step in celebrating the impact veterans have had and continue to have in the growth of LA County.





WARRIOR HERITAGE
FOUNDATION



KEY PARTNERSHIP MILESTONES

JANUARY 2025

Officially announce the MVA/WHF Partnership to eradicate Veteran homelessness and elevate the opportunities for LA County veteran families.

APRIL 2025

Bob Hope Patriotic Hall official becomes a National Historic Landmark

OCTOBER 2025

Warrior Heritage Foundation to launch its first program designed to assist transitioning military families

FEBRUARY 2026

Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Bob Hope Patriotic Hall

JUNE 2026

WHF and MVA look to utilize Bob Hope Patriotic Hall for World Cup '26 activities for the benefit of supporting LA County Veterans

DECEMBER 2026

Warrior Heritage Foundation launches second program with a focus on service member/veteran health and wellness

JULY 2028

WHF and MVA host 2028 Olympic activities at Bob Hope Patriotic Hall for the benefit of supporting LA County Veterans

BOB HOPE PATRIOTIC HALL WAS SAVED

Los Angeles Times

METRO

Editorial Pages

Friday, November 16, 1984

CC/Part II

Veterans Gear Up for Battle to Keep Old Patriotic Hall

By CAROL MCGRAW, Times Staff Writer

Meeting outside the memento-filled Nimitz Room of historic Patriotic Hall, Jay Morales, 41, and William H. Harris, 87, hug affectionately, the wizened old man almost disappearing in the younger man's arms.

These two former soldiers seem incongruous comrades: One led ammunition mule trains to the Western Front during World War I; the other flew reconnaissance missions over Vietnam's jungles.

Both are members of another fighting group now—American Legion Post 8—which is battling to save Patriotic Hall from what they fear will be a takeover by Los Angeles County.

Harris, who went to war at 17, recalled the thrill of seeing Patriotic Hall erected for veterans soon after he came back from France. Its 10 stories made it one of the tallest buildings in the young city, and he considered it his own.

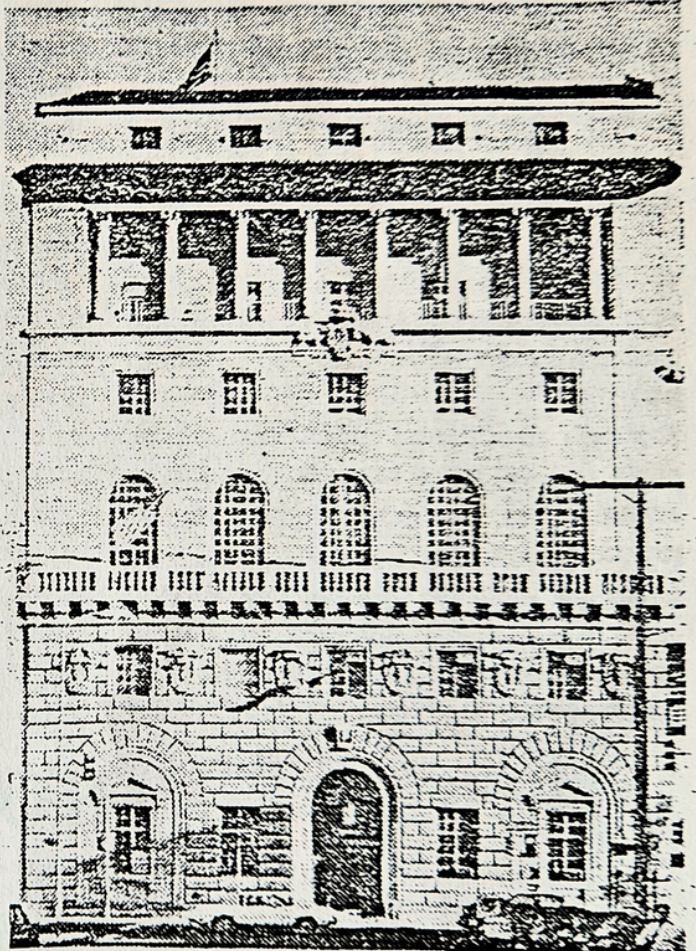
'Had Tough Times'

"The vets have had tough times. We even had to drill with wooden rifles because they didn't have enough. And look what these young boys went through. What are the politicians thinking? If they get in here, where will we be?"

Los Angeles County, under a long-range plan to consolidate and streamline government departments, is examining how it can reorganize the operation of the old hall and its caretaker, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, which assists the county's 1.5 million veterans in obtaining benefits.

"We've got to find a more efficient way to provide services and manage the facility," said Richard Schoeni, who is directing the county study.

Veterans fear, however, that if any bureaucratic reorganization takes place, they will lose not only a voice in operation of the hall but also



Patriotic Hall: mother post for L.A. County.

Patriotic Hall is far more than a charming old building, these veterans say. To them it is a symbol of duty, honor and country, a home away from home, where the older soldiers have swapped war stories and given comradely solace to the younger soldiers, and where both have worked side by side in behalf of their fellow veterans.

Legion Post 8 got wind of the county's plan about the time it was renovating its small office on the eighth floor of Patriotic Hall. Behind a wall, they found piles of 1920s newspapers, books, membership cards, photos and other records that had been stashed there during World War II.

It was like an omen, Morales said. "I kept looking at all that stuff and thinking, 'We inherited this.' Are we going to let them take it?"

Located at 1816 S. Figueroa St. near downtown Los Angeles, the hall is one of dozens of such memorial buildings.

HALL: Veterans Prepare for Next Battle

Continued from Page 1

ationwide that were built in a hurry of patriotism for the returning doughboys of World War I.

The halls, built with government funds, and sometimes bond issues and community contributions,

were turned over to the veterans' groups for their use.

But in the last several years, as local governments found themselves squeezed for space and money, they began to scrutinize these relics. Those that were spacious, in fairly good condition and located on prime real estate, were coveted. Those found too expensive to renovate or maintain were closed.

"In some places, the veterans were lax and the war was over before it even started," said Art Jarret, state American Legion adjutant, noting that in cities where there was little resistance, veterans' groups were forced to move or to share quarters. In other areas, however, veterans have won battles to retain the halls.

In Los Angeles County, Legion Post 8 and several other veterans' groups were quick to protest in September when the county office of chief administrator presented an initial draft report suggesting that the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the hall be placed under the direction of the Museum of Natural History.

Seeking Alternatives

As a result of veterans' opposition to that plan, the county is looking at a number of other alternatives, ranging from merging the Military and Veterans Affairs Department with a larger department to keeping it, with the hall, as a separate entity. A final recommendation is to be presented to the Board of Supervisors in January.

Patriotic Hall, overlooking the juncture of the Harbor and Santa Monica freeways, was built by the county in 1926 as a center for veterans activities.

From the Purple Heart Inn in the basement to the gun emplacements on the roof, the hall contains an impressive array of mementos dating to the Civil War, some collected by members of Legion Post 8. The post, a relic itself, was the first American Legion Post in Los Angeles County and is considered the "mother post" for 40,000 Legion members in the county.

"You can't get any more patriotic than this," said Morales, showing off the hundreds of pieces of memorabilia that



Some of the newspaper editions in a Patriotic Hall showcase.

over Japan. On the wall, a recruitment poster beseeches civilians, "Keep 'em Flying." On the sixth floor, in the Gen. Omar Bradley room, a D-Day mural hangs above cases of medals and other decorations earned during the invasion of Normandy. In the Nimitz room, where the final scene in the movie "Flashdance" was filmed, a German mortar cannon squats.

Many of these cavernous, wood-paneled meeting rooms have been made strangely cozy, the walls decorated with scores of autographed photos of war heroes and statesmen, including those who visited Patriotic Hall: President Woodrow Wilson, Gen. John J. Pershing and Marshal Ferdinand Foch, head of the Allied Supreme Command in 1918.

But the hall is more than a memorial. More than 100 service-related groups meet in the elegant old building. One floor is taken up by the Veterans Administration psychiatric outpatient program, where 70 men come each day for therapy and classes.

Besides the county Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the building also houses state headquarters of the Disabled American Veterans and the county offices of the American Legion, district headquarters for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a public auditorium that seats 653 and a gymnasium used by veterans and others.

The Museum of Natural History was suggested as caretaker for the building because "it has experience in operating such facilities and it holds promise of more efficiently running Patriotic Hall," said Schoeni, the director of organizational studies in the chief administrative office.

And although no specific plans have been discussed, county officials hope that the Museum

groups and others who use the meeting rooms, including movie companies that often use the building for filming.

The department's \$600,000 budget, however, has left no money for renovation, officials said. And the veterans' groups contend that lack of money also has hampered their efforts to enhance the hall's museum potential. As a result, most of the historic exhibits have been haphazardly arranged, are covered with dust and are seen only by the veterans who use the hall or an occasional tourist or school group that finds its way to the building.

Veterans Fear Loss

Although veterans' groups agree that they would be interested in a cooperative agreement with the Museum of Natural History to develop a war museum in the hall, they insist on retaining the hall mainly for veterans' activities.

In spite of county assertions that veterans' groups always will have a home in the hall, officials of the groups say they fear that that would not actually be the case. Veterans' groups in other counties have encountered enough problems with their own halls to make this issue a legitimate concern for the local groups, Schoeni said.

In Butte County, supervisors tried to close down two halls and convert four others for other county use. The veterans won that battle, arguing in Butte County Superior Court that once such halls are erected, they should be maintained for the use and benefits of the veterans' organizations, according to Robert Hewitt, attorney for the veterans.

In San Francisco's downtown War Memorial Building, veterans over the years have had to share more and more space with the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and other tenants, according to the state American Legion, which has



BOB HOPE

PATRIOTIC HALL

BOBHOPETHALL.ORG

THE WARRIOR HERITAGE FOUNDATION IS PROUD TO OFFER RENTAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PRISTINE ROOMS AT BOB HOPE PATRIOTIC HALL FOR YOUR PERSONAL AND CORPORATE EVENTS. CATERING IS OFFERED ON-SITE AND

100% OF YOUR RENTAL FEE WILL GO TOWARDS THE EFFORTS OF WHF AND MVA!

NIMITZ ROOM & TERRACE

MAX SEATED GUEST COUNT - 100
ROOM DIMENSIONS - 71' X 27'

LINCOLN ROOM

MAX SEATED GUEST COUNT - 120
ROOM DIMENSIONS - 54' X 37'

THE AUDITORIUM

MAX SEATED GUEST COUNT - 420
ROOM DIMENSIONS - 67' X 79'

THE FOYER

MAX SEATED GUEST COUNT - 150
ROOM DIMENSIONS - 78' X 57'

THE BASKETBALL COURT

MAX SEATED GUEST COUNT - N/A
ROOM DIMENSIONS - 86' X 47'

THE WILSON ROOM

MAX SEATED GUEST COUNT - 150
ROOM DIMENSIONS - 37' X 54'





WARRIOR HERITAGE FOUNDATION

At WHF, our mission is to empower veterans, active-duty service members, and their families across Los Angeles County to successfully integrate, thrive, and provide transformative leadership within their communities. Here are just some of the ways we will be accomplishing this mission:

- Providing world-class transition assistance
- Celebrating the incredible accomplishments of Veterans in Los Angeles County and preserving the history of Bob Hope Patriotic Hall for generations to come
- Making life-changing career connections for veterans and their families
- Providing a thriving community network to support our veterans in Los Angeles County



JOIN THE WHF COMMUNITY AND EXPLORE WAYS
CONTRIBUTE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING WHF AND OUR LA COUNTY VETERAN
COMMUNITY!



WARRIOR HERITAGE FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP TEAM



JUSTIN GARZA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
US NAVY SEAL VETERAN



GREG SISA
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
US NAVY SEAL VETERAN

WHF BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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TREASURER
US ARMY GREEN BERET
VETERAN

THANK YOU!

ON BEHALF OF THE MVA AND WARRIOR HERITAGE FOUNDATION, WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR YOUR INTEREST AND SUPPORT FOR OUR MISSION TO ERADICATE VETERAN HOMELESSNESS AND ELEVATE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY. IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT THE COUNTY WITH THE LARGEST POPULATION OF VETERANS TAKES THE LEAD IN PROVIDING A PATH TO SUCCESS FOR THOSE THAT HAVE FOUGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING YOU JOIN THIS COMMUNITY AND HELP US SUCCEED IN THIS INITIATIVE!

VERY RESPECTFULLY,

JIM ZENNER AND JUSTIN GARZA

