

# LOCAL NEWS

# Veterans memorial designs revealed

**Civic Center project construction planned to start by September**

By Dan Schreiber  
Examiner Staff Writer

Three designs were unveiled Tuesday for a proposed veterans memorial at the heart of The City's Civic Center.

The grassy octagon between the War Memorial Opera House and War Memorial Performing Arts Center, which contains soil from several notable battlefields, could soon feature a floating ring of shimmering dog tags, a long spillway pool punctuated by a bronze flag, or a "passage of remembrance" with reflective walls.

Roger Dong, chairman of the American Legion War Memorial Commission, said whatever design is chosen, it will not focus on a particular war. Still, it will be a stunning attraction in San Francisco, he said.

"Once the Gray Line buses start coming by this place," Dong said, "it will be our most famous national monument."

Major Gen. Mike Myatt, chairman of the project's working committee, said a design will be chosen from the three finalists in July.

"If I have my way, we're going to

## San Francisco prepares to honor veterans

Three designs have been proposed for a veterans memorial in the Civic Center.

### REFLECTING POOL WITH FLAG

Designer: Larry Kirkland and J. Douglass Macy



- Raises the mound containing significant battlefield soils
- Encircles the mound with a granite wall
- Wall includes an explanation of the mound
- A 100-by-7 foot reflecting pool bordered by a paved path
- The center of the pool features a cast bronze folded American flag

### WREATH OF REMEMBRANCE

Designer: Norman Lee and SWA Group



- Wire-suspended sculptural wreath of shimmering gold-colored dog tags
- Wreath is illuminated by lights in a circular plaza of granite below
- The granite surface includes a thin membrane of water at various times of the day
- Water will be synchronized with the ebb and flow of San Francisco Bay tides

### PASSAGE OF REMEMBRANCE

Designer: Susan Narduli and Andrea Cochran



- Series of three reflecting pools
- Pools form a circle of flowing water over polished stone
- Walkway anchored by a wall on either side that reflects the images of visitors
- West wall inscribed with a poem by World War I veteran Archibald MacLeish, "The Young Dead Soldiers Do Not Speak"

Source: San Francisco Arts Commission

kick this thing off by September," Myatt said.

The project is headed by former Secretary of State George Shultz and former Secretary of Defense William Perry. Nearly \$1.8 million in private donations has already been raised for the total cost of the \$2.5 million project. The funding

includes \$500,000 for maintenance of the monument.

Future fundraisers, including a September performance by the San Francisco Opera, will help gather the remaining money, and planners hope to have the new monument in place for a formal dedication on Veterans Day 2012.

The project has technically been in the works since the 1920s, when landscape architect Thomas Church designed the octagon as the centerpiece for a War Memorial Complex across the street from City Hall. As originally intended, each project incorporates the octagon into its design.

In November, the San Francisco Arts Commission chose the three finalists after a nationwide call for design proposals. The proposals are on public display starting today through June 22 in the Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Ave.

dschreiber@sfxaminer.com