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War Memorial Board of Trustees receives \$1.5 million Grant from the Stephen Bechtel Fund for San Francisco Veterans Memorial

SAN FRANCISCO, May 12, 2011 - Today the San Francisco War Memorial Board of Trustees announced it has accepted a \$1.5 million grant from the Stephen Bechtel Fund to support the design and construction of the San Francisco Veterans Memorial, which will fulfill the original vision for the San Francisco War Memorial Complex.

This generous grant from the Stephen Bechtel Fund is made in honor of U.S. Marine Veteran and Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz and his wife Charlotte M. Shultz. The War Memorial Board of Trustees also approved naming the Carriage Drive, which encircles the Veterans Memorial site between the War Memorial Opera House and Veterans Building, for George and Charlotte Shultz.

Secretary Shultz responded to the announcement saying: "Our Veterans have fought to preserve our freedom and security. The San Francisco Veterans Memorial Project honors this essential service to our country. Charlotte and I are proud to be associated with this magnificent project and we are deeply grateful to the Stephen Bechtel Fund for their generous support."

Chair of the San Francisco Veterans Memorial Working Committee, War Memorial Trustee MajGen J. Michael Myatt, USMC (Ret.), stated: "We are honored by the Stephen Bechtel Fund's recognition of Secretary Shultz and his wife Charlotte, who through their dedication to both Veterans and the arts embody the Fund's emphasis on character and citizen development. The generous support of the Stephen Bechtel Fund will be the cornerstone of our ongoing fundraising efforts, as we work to keep an 80-year promise to our Veterans by building a memorial at the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center Complex."

About the San Francisco Veterans Memorial Project

The San Francisco Veterans Memorial Project is headed by former Secretary of State George P. Shultz and former Secretary of Defense William J. Perry, who co-chair the Veterans Memorial Steering Committee, which is raising private funds for the design, installation and maintenance of the Veterans Memorial. The original 1920's plans for the War Memorial Complex called for a veterans' memorial in the Memorial Court, the landscaped area between the War Memorial Opera House and Veterans Building.

The San Francisco Arts Commission conducted a national design competition for the Veterans Memorial. Three artist teams were selected as finalists in November 2010, and their proposals will be submitted and placed on public display in June 2011. The San Francisco Veterans Memorial is planned to be formally dedicated on Veterans Day, November 11, 2012.