

THE SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS MEMORIAL PROJECT

For 10 years, I've had the great honor of being on the San Francisco War Memorial Board of Trustees.

Between the War Memorial Opera House and the War Memorial Veterans Building, both built after World War I, lies a site that has long been earmarked to pay tribute to the sacrifices of our veterans.

Situated majestically in front of City Hall, the Veterans Memorial will honor the extraordinary dedication and sacrifice of those who have gone to battle, and will offer a site of contemplation—to reflect, to remember and to heal.

Wilkes Bashford, in front of the "sacred soil," site of the future Memorial

WILKES BASHFORD ON THE 75-YEAR-OLD DREAM PROJECT, CLOSE TO THE HEARTS OF MANY, THAT WILL SOON FINALLY BE REALIZED.

I think that as a city, we all regret that due to our famous anti-war protests, San Francisco has had an unearned reputation of being insensitive to its veterans. On the contrary, while we don't like war, we are extremely supportive of the men and women who have fought for our freedom. It will be a great joy for us all to honor them.

The site currently contains "sacred soil" from seven battlefields where Americans have fought and died, with the planned addition of soils from current and future battlefields.

This project has finally made it to the "front burner" thanks to the passion of new board member Major General Michael Myatt,

who chose me to work with him on the memorial. We are hosting a national competition for a structure to be built upon the sacred soil as the Veterans Memorial. We envision something, perhaps, with flowing water.

Our Honorary Chairs are Ex-Secretary of State George Schultz and Ex-Secretary of Defense William Perry.

As we are looking to raise \$2.5 million in the coming months to build and maintain this Memorial, I am hoping that you, our clients and friends, will join us at fundraising events that will be announced in the coming months.



1920s fundraising poster

wilkes' passion

