



COMMUNITY NEWS

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City of San Mateo Prepares to Unveil the Fallen Heroes Memorial

**Central Park's New Monument Honors the Heroic Sacrifices
Made by Local Servicemembers, Police and Firefighters**

San Mateo, CA – On May 23, 2024, the City of San Mateo will unveil the Fallen Heroes Memorial, a new art installation in Central Park which will pay tribute to San Mateo residents who lost their lives in the line of duty while serving as servicemembers, police and firefighters.

The memorial will be comprised of monoliths representing the branches of the U.S. Military, as well as the San Mateo Police and Fire Departments, each etched with the names of community members who made the ultimate sacrifice. When viewed from the nearby flagpole, the monoliths will align to form the shape of a poppy flower, an iconic symbol of remembrance inspired by John McCrae's World War I poem, "In Flanders Fields."

"The City of San Mateo is deeply grateful to our fallen heroes who bravely fought to protect our country and community," said San Mateo Mayor Lisa Diaz Nash. "With this new memorial, we honor their memories and ensure that our residents will have an enduring place of beauty and solemnity to reflect on their heroism."

Planning for the project began in 2015; and in 2019, RRM Landscape Architects were tasked with designing the art installation and surrounding grounds, which include a new seating area. Following extensive fundraising efforts, a groundbreaking ceremony was held on December 19, 2023, and Staples Construction began building the memorial.

The Fallen Heroes Memorial Committee, which includes military veterans and retired police and firefighters, raised over \$300,000 to finance the memorial's construction. "The Committee and the City of San Mateo are so thankful to all of the donors who provided funding for the Fallen Heroes Memorial," said former San Mateo Mayor and Fallen Heroes Memorial Committee Chair, Maureen Freschet. "This wonderful tribute would not be possible without their generosity."

This project represents the first major renovation to San Mateo's Central Park as the City implements the Central Park Master Plan. In the future, the community can look forward to additional upgrades, including a complete reimagining of the Central Park playground.

Additional information regarding the Fallen Heroes Memorial may be found at www.cityofsanmateo.org/4515/Fallen-Heroes-Memorial.

www.cityofsanmateo.org

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