



# Information Item

Date: May 23, 2013

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Karen Ginsberg, Director of Community & Cultural Services

Subject: Update on the Development of a Commemorative Wall at Woodlawn Cemetery for Santa Monica's War Dead

## Introduction

At the annual Memorial Day Observance at Woodlawn Cemetery, Mortuary and Mausoleum on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, staff will have a table with an overview of the commemorative wall being developed for the Cemetery, a preliminary design for the project and information on how to donate to its realization.

## Background

On [February 12, 2013](#) City Council directed staff to proceed with the development of a commemorative wall to honor Santa Monica's war dead that would be funded through private contributions. Council also approved the proposed location for the wall at Woodlawn Cemetery, adjacent to the south entrance of the mausoleum. On May 2, 2013, staff held a community workshop at the Civic Auditorium to begin to build awareness of the project and solicit feedback on preliminary design concepts for the wall. Staff contacted residents and local veterans groups to invite participation; however, the meeting was sparsely attended. It did however result in some excellent comments and the first contribution for the project in the amount of \$500. The community was also invited to provide feedback and names of people to be included via the City's [website](#).

## **Discussion**

Attached are the preliminary design concepts that will be presented at the annual Memorial Day observance along with a site plan. The design envisions a simple, yet elegant tribute. The commemorative wall will serve as the main element and focal point of the space. The space will be defined not only by the location of the wall, in front of the mausoleum, but also by the use of materials and textures on the ground as well as other site elements such as benches, landscaping and planting. Names will be engraved on plaques which will be mounted to the wall. The exact geometry and materials of the wall have not been determined.

Staff have also developed criteria for inclusion on the wall that reflect the desire to honor all those from Santa Monica that died while serving in war—no matter what the circumstance. The proposed criteria are as follows:

Someone who was:

- a. Born in Santa Monica and died while in service during time of war, in combat or otherwise, after Santa Monica was established as a City (1875);
- b. Had a Santa Monica address when they died while in service during time of war, in combat or otherwise;
- c. Died while in service during war, in combat or otherwise, and chose to be interred in Santa Monica.

Although the City has already collected the names of over 90 people, staff will also be seeking to collect additional names, both on Memorial Day and through additional outreach, as well as soliciting contributions to fund the completion of the project.

**Prepared By:** Jessica Cusick, Cultural Manager



SANTA MONICA COMMEMORATIVE WALL  
PRELIMINARY DESIGN

**Santa Monica Commemorative Wall  
Woodlawn Cemetery, Mortuary and Mausoleum**

The Santa Monica Commemorative Wall is to be a simple, yet elegant tribute to the men and women of Santa Monica who have given their lives while serving their country in American foreign wars.

A site along the walkway on the Southern façade of the Mausoleum was approved by City Council as the location for the commemorative wall. The preliminary design includes widening the existing walkway to allow for greater accessibility. The additional access will also help to activate the beautiful, but underutilized south facing façade and entrance to the mausoleum.

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