

Let's Restore the Luster to Our Jewel

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Our Detroit area Armenian American Veterans were and still are one of the strongest backbones of our community. Their insight into the future of the St. John Armenian Church Campus started as they returned from service after World War II. These bright, eager and forward-thinking men anticipated the treasured value of a building that would bring together the varied interests of our parish.

Just like your own home, updates and renovations are a necessary part of ownership. The Armenian American Veteran's Building, our home away from home, is no different. The loving years of wear and tear combined with the extended gap since the last renovation have resulted in the need for long overdue improvements.

Earnest fundraising has already begun. With generous contributions from the Apostolic Society, the roof and the basement have been completely restored. A single donation of \$50,000 contributed to the restoration of the gym – just in time to showcase it during our ACYOA Sports Weekend! The additional cost to repair the rest of the building is nearly \$500,000. To continue, we need your help.

First, consider what this means to future generations. The Veteran's Building hosts numerous campus events and venues that we all enjoy, such as the Tuesday Lunch Club, meeting rooms, the ACYOA room, day camp, Arts of Armenia and youth sports. Every area of the building, including the kitchen, has served us abundantly in one way or the other. We all have a story to tell about our historic connection to this ever-giving gift of the past. Now it is time to renew that gift.

Second, realize how the Veteran's Building contributes to our bottom line. One of the long-range benefits will be to improve the financial health of the church. Beautifying the facility greatly expands the banquet and catering options we offer. The Veteran's hall can seat up to 200 guests and is ideal for graduation or

birthday parties, reunions, holiday parties, or award banquets.

Several exciting fundraising events have already been held, and we are looking forward to more. Would you enjoy hosting an event in your home to gather your friends and family in support of this goal? Would you like to hold a creative event that will bring together supporters of this project?

Take a walk around the Veterans Building to see what you and your family can do to continue the legacy of our unselfish community serving Veterans. People of all ages, some you will never know, will be the beneficiaries of your forward-thinking generosity.

After their first and most important sacrifice of defending the country and the world, our Veterans placed a high value on community. So, they built the Armenian American Veteran's Building, an essential addition to the St. John campus. They sacrificed then and we are encouraged to do so now. Let's restore the luster to our jewel.

To inquire about how you can donate your time, treasure and talent to the Veteran's Building renovation, please contact Yerchanig Callan at yerchanigc@yahoo.com.