



Passage of Remembrance

SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS MEMORIAL

KOREAN WAR SOIL DEDICATION CEREMONY

Saturday, May 20, 2017, 11:00 a.m.

Armed Forces Day

Sponsored by

San Francisco Veterans Memorial Committee

and

Korean War Memorial Foundation

Charlotte and George Shultz Horseshoe Drive adjacent to the Memorial Court

between the War Memorial Opera House and War Memorial Veterans Building

301-401 Van Ness Avenue

San Francisco, California

The San Francisco Veterans Memorial and Sacred Soil

The heart of the War Memorial Complex is the Memorial Court, a panel of lawn set on axis with the dome of City Hall, flanked by pollarded Plane trees lining recessed pathways in a basket weave pattern of pebble mosaic paving.

In 1935, War Memorial Complex architect Arthur Brown, Jr. recommended landscape architect Thomas D. Church to complete the Memorial Court. Mr. Church, renowned for his gardens reflecting the Beaux-Arts tradition, set to work and completed the design in 1936. His drawings referenced a “future memorial” to be added in the octagonal area of the Memorial Court.

Over the years, honor was shown to fallen veterans by interring battlefield soils in the Memorial Court octagon. Soils from World War I battlefields were consigned there at the time of its completion. A similar ceremony depositing soils from World War II battlefields took place following the 1945 signing of the United Nations Charter in the Veterans Building. And in 1988, veterans groups held a ceremony interring battlefield soils from Austria, Belgium, Cambodia, China, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Guam, Italy, Laos, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

In 2010, a private Veterans Memorial Committee raised funds to design and install the long awaited San Francisco Veterans Memorial in the Memorial Court, and in 2014 the completed memorial entitled *Passage of Remembrance*, was dedicated to honor our nation’s military veterans. Prior to beginning construction of the San Francisco Veterans Memorial, the soil from the center of the octagonal area of the Memorial Court was carefully removed and safeguarded. The *Passage of Remembrance* provides an area within its walls where this soil was re-interred as part of the Memorial’s dedication.

In February 2016, as part of a Gold Star Parents ceremony at the San Francisco Veterans Memorial, battlefield soils from Afghanistan and Iraq were added to and interred in the Veterans Memorial.

On May 20, 2017, in a ceremony co-sponsored by the San Francisco Veterans Memorial Committee and the Korean War Memorial Foundation, battlefield soil from Korea will be added to the Veterans Memorial in ongoing remembrance of the courageous men and women who died in the service of freedom.

The soil was obtained in Incheon, a strategic port on the west coast of Korea. The military forces of the United States and Korea launched a decisive and massive amphibious landing, which turned the tide of the Korean War and led to the liberation of Seoul, the capital of Korea. The battlefield soil from Incheon symbolizes the dedicated services and sacrifices of the Korean War veterans of the United States and Korea as well as the robust alliance between our two nations.

Our special thanks go out to the Honorable Chae-Hyun, Shin, Consul General of the Republic of Korea in San Francisco, for securing the soil from one of the major battlefields of the Korean War.