

## Jon Maginot

---

**From:** David Smith  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2016 5:56 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Jon Maginot  
**Subject:** Renaming Community Plaza in Downtown Los Altos to Veterans Plaza

The Los Altos Rotary Club Board of Directors met this morning and voted unanimously to support the renaming of the Los Altos Community Plaza to the **Los Altos Veterans Community Plaza**. If approved by the City Council, the Los Altos Rotary Club will work with the city to support how proper signage could be installed (there presently is no name signage) and how the plaza could be improved to increase usage by residents.

As background, early this year the proposal to rename the Community Plaza to Veterans Plaza was reviewed with the Rotary Board and given support. At that time a vote, for the record, was not taken. Since then some members of Rotary, that were instrumental in building the Community Plaza in 1994, voiced concern about abandoning the name Community. Based on a guiding principle of Rotary, "is it fair to all concerned", we concluded at the Los Altos Rotary Board meeting that veterans, who truly deserve prominent recognition by our City could be added to the name, and that by maintaining community in the title we would continue to recognize the broad support of the residents of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills that built the plaza.

--

David M. Smith

July 9, 2016

Dear Los Altos City Council Members,

I am writing concerning the downtown plaza renaming efforts. As a member of the Rotary Club of Los Altos' Veterans Support Committee, I have been happily engaged in talking-up renaming the "Community Plaza" to "Veterans Plaza." It's been exciting to see so many individuals and groups joining in support of this project.

I am also an original stake-holder and family brick donator for the original 1994 development of the Community Plaza. (I have actually thought for all these years that it was the "Rotary Plaza," but never-mind.)

Never did it occur to me that these two allegiances would ever conflict. I am reasonably certain that this is true for the others who have endorsed renaming.

However, there clearly ARE Los Altans who feel very strongly about this issue, who feel it would in a way dishonor or break a promise made to those who originally supported and participated in the creation of the plaza. However surprised I may be about this, now that these powerful beliefs are revealed, I completely get-it.

So here we are: Divided. Everyone who's expressed interest in the issue seems edgy and unhappy. I know it's an overstatement, but like so much in our current political, community and cultural climate, it seems like our "Community" side is at-war with our "Veterans" side. And visa-versa. Two valid, understandable, but opposing positions. What to do?

I propose a loving compromise. Now that the current renaming project has been revealed as contentious, I suggest we Renamers back-off.

That said, who can deny the eloquent validity of American Legion Post 558 Commander William J. Miklos's letter in last week's *Town Crier*—"...In an era that seldom recognizes the special nature of unconditional dedication and total sacrifice, it is extremely important to have a place in the city where these qualities in an individual are honored. The veterans do not wish to be considered heroes, and this is not a recognition of individuals per se. But we do support an area in Los Altos that recognizes the qualities in an individual who has made this country great and recognizes the role service members have played in preserving our freedom and securing the freedom of people in many friendly countries..."

The only element I would add to this compelling statement is that "it is extremely important to have a PROMINENT designated space in the city which honors our vets. I mention this to address the presumption that Rebecca Truman's magnificent bronze statue, "Cradle of Liberty," in Shoup Park achieves this goal. From other plaza-related commentary, it's clear that many of our citizens are completely unaware such a memorial exists.

With this in mind, may I suggest that we seriously consider a name-change for newly and wisely-acquired "Lincoln Park" to "Veterans Park." There already exists a flagpole in this park. There clearly is interest and enthusiasm which could be directed toward desirable, meaningful modifications to this space signifying our dedication to our Vets. This proposal may well be disturbing to some who have other ideas or assumptions regarding this property. However, I personally believe this to be a welcome and worthy solution to our current dispute.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Janet Harding

## **Erica Ray**

---

**From:** Marilyn Labetich  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2016 3:08 PM  
**To:** Erica Ray  
**Subject:** In support of Veterans Plaza

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I definitely support the renaming of Community Plaza to Veterans Plaza. It would be a fitting tribute to the men and women who have served their country bravely and unselfishly.

Thank You  
Marilyn Labetich

## Erica Ray

---

**From:** Tracie Murray  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2016 2:04 PM  
**To:** Erica Ray  
**Subject:** Fw: I support..

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Erica,

I am not sure if you got Aaron's support. I am not sure, at this point, if it matters, but I wanted to forward his support email that he sent me.

Best wishes,

Tracie Murray, JD, NHA  
Administrator  
Cedar Crest Nursing and Rehabilitation Center 797 E. Fremont Avenue  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087  
408/738-4880

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** atozier76 <[mailto:atozier76@americanlegion.org](#)>  
**To:** Erica Ray  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 10, 2016 6:34 PM  
**Subject:** I support..

I Aaron. Tozier am a member of American Legion post 558 in Los Altos. I support the name change to Veterans Plaza!!

Thank you for all that you do!!

Sincerely

Aaron. Tozier.

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S7 edge.

## Erica Ray

---

**From:** Lara O'Brien  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2016 1:42 PM  
**To:** Erica Ray  
**Subject:** Community plaza

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Erica,

I am writing you in support of changing the name of Community plaza to Veteran's Plaza. I think this is a great way to recognize the Veterans in our community.

Thank you,

Lara O'Brien

Sent from my iPhone

## Erica Ray

---

**From:** Scott O'Brien  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2016 12:32 PM  
**To:** Erica Ray  
**Subject:** Support of Veterans Plaza

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Erica-

I am writing to let you know that I support changing the name of the Community Plaza to Veteran's Plaza. This is a simple act that we as community can do to show support to our Veterans that have fought for our country and our freedom.

Thanks,  
Scott O'Brien

## Erica Ray

---

**From:** Patrick Ferguson  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2016 8:34 AM  
**To:** Erica Ray  
**Subject:** Name change

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Erica

I support changing the Community Plaza name to Veteran's Plaza.

Patrick Ferguson, PhD  
Calabazas Creek Research

## Erica Ray

---

**From:** Robert Hearn  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 10, 2016 5:43 PM  
**To:** Erica Ray  
**Cc:** Ron Labetich  
**Subject:** L A Community Plaza Renaming

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I'm excited that our city is considering renaming the community plaza to honor veterans. What a wonderful idea.

When we first came to Los Altos in the 50's, the Korean War was still on people's minds. Our town was well represented with World War 2 Veterans. Now, most of both groups have passed away. It would really be nice to have that reminder that we are still benefiting from their contributions to our lifestyles.

Many may think we might be interested in trying to highlight the wars. No, we want to remember and honor those men and women who were our neighbors and friends. It would also encourage those students at Foothill who are veterans who are rebuilding their lives, plus a reminder for those who served at other periods and those that didn't come back home.

Please do this very noble thing for our fellow residents who gave us themselves.

Thank you!

Robert "Bob" Hearn

Sent from my iPhone

## Erica Ray

---

**From:** Ted Greenwood  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 10, 2016 4:31 PM  
**To:** Erica Ray  
**Subject:** Veterans Plaza

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To whom it may concern,

I am the building manager for the Los Altos American Legion and I fully support the name change to "Veterans Plaza"

---

Ted Greenwood

Sent from mobile device

**Erica Ray**

---

**From:** Steve Shepherd  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 09, 2016 3:58 PM  
**To:** Erica Ray  
**Cc:** Ron Labetich  
**Subject:** Renaming Community Plaza

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Erica,

I support the name change of the Community Plaza to rename it Veteran's Plaza.

Thanks,  
Steve

Steve Shepherd

Sent from my MacBook Pro

## Erica Ray

---

**From:** Nextdoor <reply@rs.email.nextdoor.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 09, 2016 2:22 PM  
**To:** Erica Ray  
**Subject:** Re: Poll: Do you support the renaming of Community Plaza to Veterans Plaza?

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

 Nancy Bremeau, Old Los Altos Alley

I actually hope that the City does not allow the renaming of Community Plaza. We already have "Patriot's Corner" at Shoup Park and the very majestic Veteran's bronze sculpture "Liberty" - also at Shoup Park. I imagine there are other Veteran's memorials around town at various places.

I believe the "Community Plaza" at the highly visible intersection of State and Main should remain "for the Community".

I would really like to see an effort to improve and beautify Community Plaza...not rename it! This could be a beautiful greenspace, "parklet" at the main entrance to downtown. Let's turn it into a beautiful space that everyone wants to enjoy!

Original post by Erica Ray from City of Los Altos (3 replies):

Do you support the renaming of Community Plaza to Veterans Plaza?  
Jun 16 in General to 1 area in City of Los Altos

[View or reply](#) [Thank](#) [Private message](#)

[Not interested in following this discussion?](#)

You received this update because you thanked or replied to this post. [Stop receiving immediate updates on this post](#)

This message is intended for eray@losaltosca.gov.  
[Unsubscribe or adjust your email settings](#)

Nextdoor, 750 Market Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94102

## Erica Ray

---

**From:** Bob Simmons  
**Sent:** Friday, July 08, 2016 6:45 PM  
**To:** Erica Ray  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Renaming the Los Altos Community Plaza

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Erica,

Please pass the following on to the all the City CouncilMembers.

Thanks,

Bob & Diane Simmons

Dear Council Members,

The following is in support of renaming the Community Plaza:

It should be every American's privilege to honor our Veterans at every opportunity. My wife and I cannot think of a better way for our community to honor the brave men and women who have selflessly served our country and risked their lives to protect our freedoms than to rename the Community Plaza.

There are more than 23 million Veterans. Too many of them need our help. The Veterans Administration has let them down.

Most Americans will never serve in the military or fight for their country. However, there are countless ways that everyone can help these veterans who often return home from war to face their most difficult battles. Those severely injured may need to learn how to live with the loss of a limb or limited mobility. For others, brain injuries or post-traumatic stress disorder can make the return to civilian life a struggle. We need to keep the plight of our Veterans in front of the public so changes can be made.

Renaming our Plaza to honor those hero's who have selfishly served our communities and our Country would be an appropriate reminder of how important they are and always will be.

## Erica Ray

---

**From:** Labetich, Ron  
**Sent:** Friday, July 08, 2016 2:19 PM  
**To:** Erica Ray  
**Subject:** Veterans Plaza

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Council,

Thank you for putting this recognition of Veterans on your agenda.

I believe the name change of one eight letter word "Veterans" is appropriate and timely. Twenty military Veterans commit suicide DAILY or one every 65 minutes in the USA which is very sad.

Perhaps our community can publicly demonstrate that we appreciate the Veterans dedication to protect and defend our safety and way of life by your approval of Veterans Plaza.

Sincerely,

Ron Labetich

Sent from my iPhone

This email (including any attachments) is confidential and intended for the named recipient(s) only. It may be subject to legal or other professional privilege and contain copyright material.

Any confidentiality or privilege is not waived or lost because this email has been sent to you by mistake.

Access to this email or its attachments by anyone else is unauthorised. If you are not the intended recipient, you may not disclose, copy or distribute this email or its attachments, nor take or omit to take any action in reliance on it. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately, delete it from your system and destroy any copies.

We accept no liability for any loss or damage caused by this email or its attachments due to viruses, interference, interception, corruption or unauthorised access.

Any views or opinions presented in this email or its attachments are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the company.

## Erica Ray

---

**From:** Walter  
**Sent:** Friday, July 08, 2016 12:20 PM  
**To:** Erica Ray  
**Subject:** Plaza name change

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

As a member of American legion post 558, I see no reason not to change the name of the plaza. Walt. Waite

## Erica Ray

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** Friday, July 08, 2016 8:51 AM  
**To:** Erica Ray  
**Subject:** Veteran's Plaza rename

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I vote for the name change to Veteran's Plaza. Thank you.  
Edwin R. Hodges  
Post 558 of American Legion

## Erica Ray

---

**From:** Steve Yarbrough <lawoffice@besson-yarbrough.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2016 6:48 PM  
**To:** Erica@smtp107.biz.mail.ne1.yahoo.com; Ray@smtp107.biz.mail.ne1.yahoo.com; Erica Ray  
**Cc:** Ron Labetich  
**Subject:** FW: Plaza renaming  
**Attachments:** image001.png; Agenda 13.Community Plaza renaming.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Ms. Ray,  
I support the proposed name change to Veterans Plaza.  
Sincerely,

Steven L. Yarbrough

Los Altos CA 94022

By Appointment:

Los Altos, CA 94022

Email: lawoffice@besson-yarbrough.com

This constitutes an electronic communication under the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 USC 2510. Its disclosure is strictly limited to the intended recipient. Receipt by anyone other than the intended recipient does not constitute a loss of the confidential or privileged nature of the communication. Any review or distribution by others is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, contact the sender and delete all copies of this communication.

Notice: Internal Revenue Service regulations provide a taxpayer may rely only on formal written advice. Any tax advice in this message does not meet those requirements. Any tax advice herein is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for purpose of avoiding federal tax penalties or to promote, market or recommend to another party any tax-related matters.

--- Original Message---

Sent: 7/06/2016 10:31AM  
Subject: Plaza renaming

>> Hello. I invite all of you to attend the City Council Meeting of July

>> 12th at 7PM for the discussion of the renaming of Community Plaza to  
>> Veterans Plaza and voice your support for this important change to  
>> honor all Military Veterans including many who reside here.  
>>  
>> If your schedule precludes your attendance, please email Erica Ray,  
>> Public Information Director, City of Los Altos at  
>> eray@losaltosca.gov<mailto:eray@losaltosca.gov>  
>>  
>> It is important that we make our support known to the City Council.  
>> AND thank you to you who have already voiced your support, Ron  
>>  
>> \*\*\*Read the letters to the editor in today's Town Crier!  
>>  
>>  
>> Ron Labetich  
>> Senior Vice President  
>> CA License #00352657  
>>  
>> Direct: 650-941-5221  
>> Mobile: 650-465-4022  
>> Fax: 650-941-2071  
>> ron.labetich@cushwake.com<mailto:ron.labetich@cushwake.com>  
>>  
>> [cid:image001.png@01D1D76F.2D34C5F0]  
>>  
>> 339 South San Antonio Road, Suite 1D  
>> Los Altos, CA 94022 | USA  
>> cushmanwakefield.com<http://www.cushmanwakefield.com>  
>>  
>> LinkedIn<https://www.linkedin.com/company/cushman-&-wakefield> |  
>> Facebook<https://www.facebook.com/CushmanWakefield> |  
>> Twitter<https://twitter.com/cushwake> |  
>> YouTube<https://www.youtube.com/user/thecushmanwakefield> | Google  
>> +<https://plus.google.com/117696679233125464118/posts> |  
>> Instagram<http://instagram.com/cushwake>  
>> <br />  
>> <div style="font-family:Calibri;font-size:10pt;">  
>> This email (including any attachments) is confidential and intended  
>> for the named  
>> recipient(s) only. It may be subject to legal or other professional  
>> privilege and contain copyright material.  
>> Any confidentiality or privilege is not waived or lost because this  
>> email has been sent to you by mistake.  
>>  
>> Access to this email or its attachments by anyone else is  
>> unauthorised. If you are not the intended recipient, you may not  
>> disclose, copy or distribute this email or its attachments, nor take  
>> or omit to take any action in reliance on it. If you have received  
>> this email in error, please notify the sender immediately, delete it from your system and destroy any copies.  
>>  
>> We accept no liability for any loss or damage caused by this email or  
>> its attachments due to viruses, interference, interception, corruption or unauthorised access.  
>>

>> Any views or opinions presented in this email or its attachments are  
>> solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the company.  
>> </div>  
>>