

I am responding to the commentary published 30 November 2021 in the Santa Maria Times regarding Veterans evicted from Guadalupe Veteran's Memorial Building.

While the history of the building is accurate and informative, the allegation that the Veterans were "kicked out" is totally false. While the building was originally dedicated for use of all veterans of Guadalupe, management of the building was negotiated between the City of Guadalupe and the American Legion Post 371, which included rental of the facility.

Unfortunately, the American Legion Post chose to put money ahead of the veterans, prohibiting access for regularly scheduled meetings to other veterans in the community. This caused quite a bit of contention between the American Legion and other Veteran groups, eventually resulting in the Guadalupe Vietnam Veterans Chapter 982 seeking a meeting place in several other locations as the Memorial Building was not made available for regular meetings due to the priority given to renting the facility. This had nothing to do with the City of Guadalupe!

The Veterans Memorial Building was intended for use by all veterans, however that has not been the case due to the American Legion leadership. I am a Vietnam Veteran and a member of the American Legion as well. I have always felt supported by the City of Guadalupe, which has welcomed our Chapter and supported all our public events. The VVA Chapter 982 considers Guadalupe our home and since the City of Guadalupe has resumed management of the Veterans Memorial Building we have been able to use the building for our meetings and feel that we have been welcomed back home. The American Legion has the same opportunity to use the building. No veteran or veteran's group has been "put out" (of the building). All veterans are welcome in Guadalupe and it makes me sad to read the commentary stating that veterans do not have a home and are allegedly not welcome in Guadalupe. This is absolutely not the case!

Sincerely,

Deek Segovia, Charter Member Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 982 and VVA Riders Group, Life Member VFW, Member American Legion

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2021

CITY OF GUADALUPE
City Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Refugio Hernández
4633 Ninth Street
Guadalupe, California
93434-1306

14 December, 2021

Tuesday

Re: Guadalupe Theater

To Whom it may Concern: Building

I am in support of the buildings' preservation.

Respectfully,

Refugio Hernández