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**COUNTY, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL LEADERS CELEBRATE \$1.2 MILLION INVESTMENT
IN WATSONVILLE VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING**

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, Santa Cruz County District 4 Supervisor Felipe Hernandez and the County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services, on Thursday hosted a ceremonial check presentation recognizing a \$1.2 million investment to make improvements to the Watsonville Veterans Memorial Building.

The funding was secured through the recent congressional appropriations process as part of the 2026 Community Funding Project submitted by Lofgren. This investment will support the removal of architectural barriers that limit mobility for older adults and people with disabilities, replace the building's elevator, and contribute to additional building improvements to expand programming and community access.

"Our Veterans Hall is a much-needed community space for Watsonville, but it's had decades of deferred maintenance needs, and it's critical that we make the renovations necessary to make this building into the gathering place that this city deserves," Rep. Zoe Lofgren said. "The second floor is not currently being used, and with this \$1.2 million I've secured, it will help to replace the elevator and make the modifications necessary for community groups to properly enjoy this space."

"We thank Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren for securing federal funding to improve ADA accessibility at the Watsonville Veterans Memorial Hall," Supervisor Hernandez said. "This investment removes long-standing barriers and ensures our veterans — including those with disabilities — can fully access the programs and services they deserve."

"With this support, the South County Veterans and community will have the opportunity to enjoy a higher scope of utilization of the Watsonville Veterans Memorial Building. This will enable the offering of additional programs and support for South County Veterans and the community," Aptos Veterans of Foreign Wars Vice Commander Lois Rae Guin said.

"County Parks remains committed to maintaining safe, welcoming, and accessible public spaces across Santa Cruz County," County Parks Director Jeff Gaffney said. "These improvements will help ensure the Watsonville Veterans Memorial Building continues to serve as a place of honor, remembrance, and community gathering."

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