



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT

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A New Hope: Bob Hope Patriotic Hall Reopens to Veterans



Thanks to a \$45 million dollar renovation by L.A. County, U.S. Military veterans finally have an upgraded facility at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall.

Military veterans, family, friends, and L.A. County officials came out recently for a rededication ceremony of the building. Military veteran John L. Stamatiades cheered the reopening. "It's important—it's important that we acknowledge the service that our citizens give to our country,"

The 10-story Italian Renaissance landmark, which housed many Veteran organizations, was rededicated and renamed Bob Hope Patriotic Hall in 2004. In 2006, the organizations had to move when the building closed for renovations.

"While we were gone, we always wanted to be able to come back here, because this is home. And anywhere home is, that's where your heart's at. And our heart is right here at Patriotic Hall," said Robert Brown, U.S. Air Force veteran, and member of the American Legion.

One of the distinguished guests at the event was 103-year-old Army veteran Bea Cohen, who received a standing ovation for her service in the U.S. Army during World War II.

"I think it is the most wonderful thing for all of the veterans," Cohen said. "The veterans are always welcome."

Some of the renovations include new mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. A new gym, and a new full-service kitchen. The auditorium and the buildings historic features have also been restored. Part of the renovation project also includes murals and original artwork of veterans by artist Kent Twitchell.

First District Supervisor Gloria Molina said, "I'm very proud to be a part of it. I'm very glad the County made this kind of investment. So it is our gift to the veterans of Los Angeles County."

The Patriotic Hall will now be home to Department of Military and Veteran Affairs and other veteran groups to provide various services to veterans and their families.

Ruth Wong, Acting Director of L.A. County Military and Veterans affairs said, "Welcome back home to everybody!"