

## **SENATE FILE# 4427**

### **AMERICAN VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK**

#### **Summary:**

The American Veterans Memorial Park (AVMP) is a registered nonprofit 501C3 IRS charitable organization with tax ID: 88-1967080.

AVMP mission is to be the largest commemorative memorial park of its kind to honor the courage, commitment, and sacrifice of **all veterans** involved in America's wars and conflicts and to offer accurate and inclusive war history of those Allies who fought and gave so much to defend and preserve American values of freedom and opportunity.

To achieve our mission a piece of land was purchased in Cannon Falls, Minnesota for the **unique purpose** as a national destination with a Museum, Event and Education Center with theater, 11 American war monuments, 4 memorials (Natives American Memorial, Blacks American Memorial, Korean American Memorial and Hmong American Memorial), RV/camping areas, outdoor military war artifacts, athletic fields, and a veterans' garden. More memorials to be followed on future fundings.

AVMP is being developed in three phases. Currently, Phase 1 has commenced with 4 soccer/softball fields, walking and biking trails, 183 parking stalls, and a storm water pond.

**Requested Funds:**

AVMP is requesting \$600K to assist with the Veteran's Garden, preparation of ground, Walking and Biking Trails, a Well for land improvement, Landscaping and Memorial Day events honoring all those who served in our country's wars and conflicts.

**Talking Points: Senator Mitchell**

- April 2022, a piece of land was purchased in Cannon Falls, MN for a veteran's memorial park.
- AVMP has full support from both the City of Cannon Falls Mayor's Office and Goodhue County's Office.
- AVMP when completed, it will be the largest commemorative veteran memorial park of its kind.
- To honor the courage, commitment, and sacrifice of all veterans involved in America's wars and conflicts.
- To offer accurate and inclusive war history
- To educate Americans costs of freedom is not free but earned through bloodshed so that generations will come understand the sacrifice of freedom.
- AVMP will be the destination attraction with 11 war monuments, memorials, walking/biking trails, veteran's garden, athletic field, military war artifacts, museum, and education theater.

**Link to publicity:**

[www.americanveteransmemorialpark.org](http://www.americanveteransmemorialpark.org)

<https://youtu.be/SwUOQVF5pxw?si=W62La8KDRuO0hNag>

<https://youtu.be/dAg7ClmOqYU?si=N3SA4hdpMI4fzl0n>

[https://youtu.be/M3vGTqB2OkA?si=GoZu9\\_6A-H7tRlMO](https://youtu.be/M3vGTqB2OkA?si=GoZu9_6A-H7tRlMO)

**Map:**

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:402fe6d1-b6e4-463a-9c25-58cb7bfbec0e>

**List of Supporters:**

- 1) General Greg Haase, US Air Force
- 2) Major Chuepheng Lo, US Army
- 3) City of Cannon Falls Mayor's Office
- 4) Goodhue County Commissioner's Office
- 5) VFW Cannon Falls
- 6) The Athletic department field of Cannon Falls
- 7) Cannon Falls Chamber of Commerce
- 8) Korean Association of Minnesota
- 9) Karen Community of Minnesota
- 10) Japanese American Citizens League
- 11) Eden Thao International Motorcycle Champion
- 12) Hmong Minnesota Corvette Club
- 13) Hmong Cyclist
- 14) Hmong Motorcycle of Minnesota
- 15) Senator Steve Drazkowski
- 16) Representative Pam Altendorf
- 17) Senator Mark Koran
- 18) Senator Tou Xiong

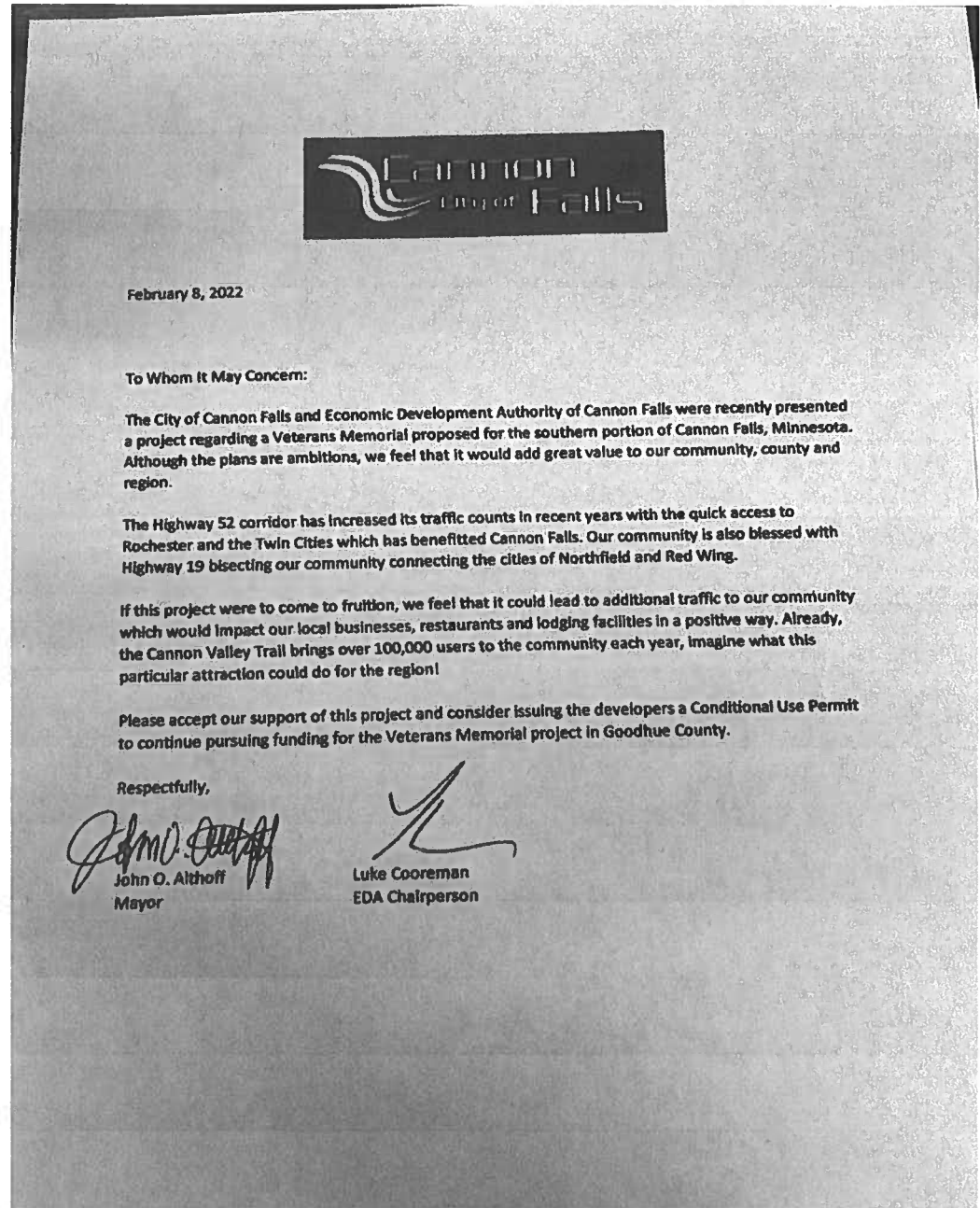
- 19) Representative Ethan Cha
- 20) Representative Elliot Engen
- 21) Senator Karin Housley
- 22) Senator FOUNG Her
- 23) Nelsie Yang, Saint Paul City Council
- 24) Christine Vang, Principal Farnsworth
- 25) Dr. Jer Lee
- 26) Dr. Tom Schmidt
- 27) Dr. Nate Burdash
- 28) Dr. Bill Davidson
- 29) Dr. Yeng Xiong
- 30) Jim Boo, Supporter
- 31) Mary Amlaw, Supporter
- 32) Dave Zien US Veterans
- 33) Jack Dunn, US Veteran
- 34) Bob Rush Retired Senior Chief Petty Officer
- 35) Maitong Her, Nurse
- 36) Chue Moua, Nurse
- 37) Neng Moua, Nurse
- 38) Bouaphon Lo, Nurse
- 39) Major Moua Houa, Hmong Veteran
- 40) Lee Yaj, Former T28 pilot
- 41) Vang Khang, Former T28 Pilot
- 42) Phong Yang, Former T28 Pilot
- 43) Captain Shoua Ger Yang, Hmong veterans 150M
- 44) Captain Nao Pao Lo, Hmong Veteran
- 45) Captain Wakai Lo, Hmong Veterans
- 46) Captain Nhia Bee Yang, Hmong Veteran
- 47) Captain Wakai Yang, Hmong Veteran
- 48) Captain Chong Ge Chang, Hmong Veteran
- 49) Captain Sunung Vang, Hmong Veteran
- 50) Captain Song Xiong, Hmong Veteran

- 51) Captain Tou Ger Cha, Hmong Veteran
- 52) Captain Lia Nou Vang, Hmong Veteran
- 53) Captain Leng Thao, Hmong Veteran
- 54) Captain Nhia Fue Yang, Hmong Veteran
- 55) Captain Chong Neng Yang, Hmong Veteran
- 56) Captain Timothy Yang, Hmong Veteran
- 57) Lt. Chue Gao Lee, Hmong Veteran
- 58) Lt. Quasa Vang, Hmong Veteran
- 59) Lt. Pachang Yang, Hmong Veteran
- 60) Lt. Nao Lor Yang, Hmong Veteran
- 61) Lt. Shoua Lee Thao, Hmong Veteran
- 62) Lt. Lincoln Thao, Hmong Veteran
- 63) Lt. Som Kao Koong, Hmong Veteran
- 64) Lt. Chue Doua Yang, Hmong Veteran
- 65) Lt. Va lor Moua, Hmong Veteran
- 66) Lt. Blia Vue Yang, Hmong Veteran
- 67) Lt. Xeng Xiong, Hmong Veteran
- 68) Lt. Wa Her Yang, Hmong Veteran
- 69) Lt. Xai Vue Yang, Hmong Veteran
- 70) Lt. Boua Tong Xiong, Hmong Veteran
- 71) Lt. Joua Thao Vue, Hmong Veteran
- 72) Lt. Paxang Vang, Hmong Veteran
- 73) Lt. Seng Lee, Hmong Veteran
- 74) Chong Vang, Supporter
- 75) Nao Tou Lor, Supporter
- 76) Yong Cha, Supporter
- 77) Richard Cha, Supporter
- 78) Bruce Vang, Supporter
- 79) Tou Joe Yang, Supporter
- 80) Chue Yang, Supporter
- 81) Robert Lo, Supporter
- 82) Voua Lor, Supporter

- 83) Mai Moua, Supporter
- 84) Wa Lor, Supporter
- 85) Mary Lor, Supporter
- 86) Zer Lor, Supporter
- 87) Cuaj Vue, Supporter
- 88) Chong Lor, Supporter
- 89) Maxine Yang, Supporter
- 90) Nicholas Lor, Supporter
- 91) Kayla Lee, Supporter
- 92) Destin Lor, Supporter
- 93) Brandon Hang, Supporter
- 94) Mercedes Xiong, Supporter
- 95) Yang Xiong, Supporter
- 96) Panhia Xiong, Supporter
- 97) Joua Va Lor, Supporter
- 98) Mai Bee Vue, Supporter
- 99) Chue Feng Lor, Supporter
- 100) Sia Lo, Supporter

Please see attachment for letter of support:

1)





**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.**

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Post 4452

Legacy Fund Board  
Minnesota State Senate  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Respective Board Members,

On behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 4452, I am writing to communicate our support for the American Veterans Memorial Park in Cannon Falls, Minnesota. We were proud to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony and welcome all efforts to honor and remember Veterans in any capacity. This visionary project will not only tell the stories of our Veterans, but also provide a place to gather, reflect and celebrate those that have come before us and after us.

We thank you in advance for any economic support you can provide to this most important project, rooted in the vision of connecting generations, promoting inclusion and finally community.

Sincerely,

Jesse

Jesse Johnson  
Quartermaster  
VFW Post 4452  
717-736-5075



March 18, 2024

Gao Vang  
Toufong Lor

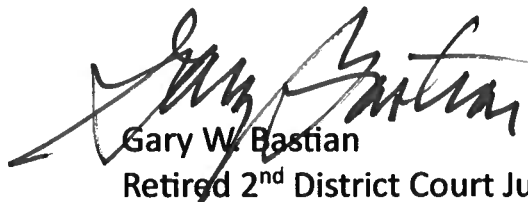
**Re: Veterans Memorial Park in Cannon Falls, MN**

The concept of this park to honor veterans from all conflicts involving our American veterans, and those that served along with them, is timely. It is a place of peace and healing, as well as a place of reflection. Reflections on the role United States service men and women have played in World and regional conflicts; reflections on the human cost of conflict; and, reflections on those who served along side of our veterans.

It will serve to educate visitors to the park and to provide them with opportunities to learn our military history, and to learn the involvement of Allies in these conflicts. For example, the involvement in Vietnam by the Secret War combatants, the Hmong led by General Vang Pao, is an important piece of history.

The expansive nature of the VMP will give Minnesotans a chance to visit quiet garden mazes, to participate in sporting activities, to learn about important historical events, and, to socialize in an open-air, expansive rural campus.

I wholeheartedly support the funding of further development of the VMP from Legacy Funds, or other State funds that might be available at this time.



Gary W. Bastian  
Retired 2<sup>nd</sup> District Court Judge

March 18, 2024

S.F. 4427 DEPOSITION

Bob Rush  
SCPO USN, Navy Retired  
1064 109<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Blaine, MN 55434

To the Committee Members:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am very honored to support Mr. Toufong Lor in his effort to develop the American Veterans Memorial Park in Cannon Falls, MN.

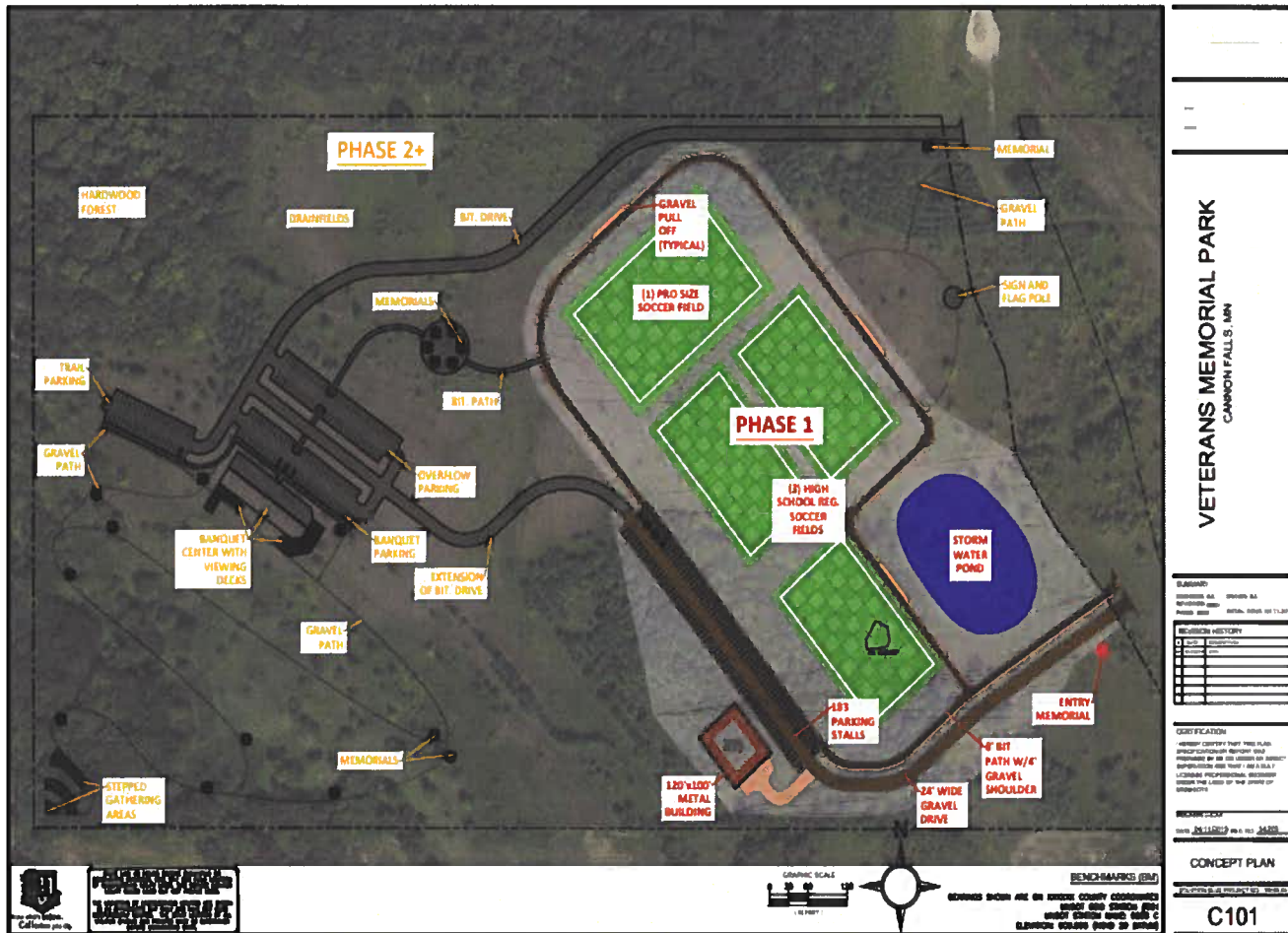
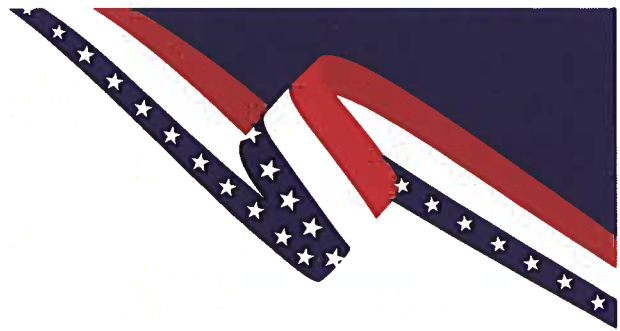
Lt. Lor personally purchased the property that is being developed. The Memorial Park is to honor veterans of every war Americans have fought or died in. This Memorial Park is a non-profit organization that will provide a great service to those who have served to defend the United States.

Lor is the son of a gentleman who personally, at great risk, rescued American pilots downed in enemy territory during the Vietnam War. He and his family of 9 children later immigrated legally to the United States, and Lor went on to personally serve in the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant.

Lt. Lor has great pride in America. I am a donor to this Memorial Park and support this effort 100%. I also personally feel that this Veterans Memorial Park will be a matter of great pride to Minnesota and will eventually draw many veterans and visitors in the future.

Thank you very much,

Bob Rush



scan here for park location