



Restoring the Veterans' National Home,
Pacific Branch (Los Angeles)

The Wadsworth Chapel Restoration Project

**“We don’t have to go back to 1887
to do right by our Veterans”**

– Carolina Barrie

As tens of thousands of Los Angeles Veterans struggle with homelessness, unemployment and physical and psychological ailments, Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald and 1887 Fund Founder Carolina Barrie have undertaken the necessary and long-overdue task of providing our local heroes with a much-needed home.

Los Angeles Veterans have an unprecedented opportunity – to be provided with space and programs worthy of their extraordinary commitment to the health and safety of our country and world - as the Pacific Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (National Home) begins its transformation, back to its roots, as a home for Veterans to rest and heal from the physical and psychological scars of war.

Over the next several years, the **1887 Fund** and Veterans Affairs Administration will partner (through a unique public-private partnership) to restore five historic sites on the **West Los Angeles VA Campus**, including the *Wadsworth Chapel*, to honor the legacy of our veterans while also utilizing these restored facilities for the health and well-being of all current and future veterans.

The effort to restore the historic *Wadsworth Chapel*, a beacon of hope and hospitality and an incredibly visible sign of our commitment to the care and support of our veterans, comes with a cost of \$22 million. To this end the **1887 Fund** is undertaking an ambitious and exciting private funding effort to raise the \$22 million to restore this important resource of our veterans and a landmark site (the oldest structure on Wilshire Blvd in Los Angeles).

“The renovation of the **Wadsworth Chapel** brings the soul back to a West LA VA campus in dire need of reform. You can not underestimate the power of bringing the soul back to the work of healing.”

– **Nathan Graeser**,
MDiv, MSW; Community
Program Administrator;
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck
School of Social Work

History

In 1866, following the end of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln initiated the development of the “National Home.” Flush with quality living quarters, a family of fellow Veterans, various healthcare and support services, opportunities for purpose, amenities for comfort, and environments to heal, the National Home was created to provide Veterans struggling with life following their service to country.

Through an 1887 act of congress, Arcadia Bandini de Baker and Senator John P. Jones donated 300 acres of land in Los Angeles to form the Pacific Branch of the National Home. Although the Pacific Branch hosts the West Los Angeles VA Campus and a large healthcare enterprise, these hallowed grounds are in need of new development and restoration of historic sites to continue the intended legacy of support



and honor to our Veterans. We, the **1887 Fund** and our friends and supporters, intend to fulfill the intended purpose of that very special donation of land.

1887 Fund, founded by Arcadia Bandini de Baker's great-niece, Carolina Barrie, was created to be a catalyst in this process for the physical and spiritual restoration of the Pacific Branch. While the Department of Veterans Affairs works to finalize their Pacific Branch Master Plan, VA Secretary Robert McDonald has entrusted **1887 Fund** with restoring five historic properties, beginning with the *Wadsworth Chapel*, that will serve as a beacon of hope and hospitality throughout the coming years of transformation.

The Wadsworth Chapel Restoration

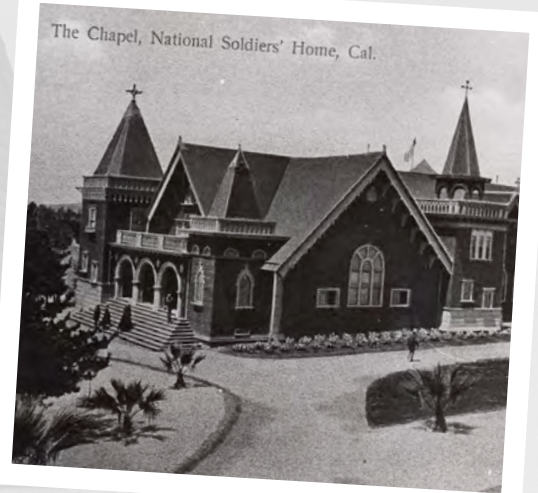
The *Wadsworth Chapel*, built in 1900 in the heart of the Pacific Branch as its spiritual core, remains one of the region's most important and iconic landmarks to this day. Named after the National Home's first Chief Medical Officer, Major James Wadsworth, this classic example of Victorian architecture is the oldest building on Wilshire Boulevard. It has historically been a place of solace for Veterans.

Those of us that have worked closely with veterans recognize that the wounds of war are not only physical and mental, but also spiritual. As such, soul repair is core to the healing process and all Veterans must be provided a spiritual haven. Through its restoration, the *Wadsworth Chapel* will serve as a source of hope and healing for the generations of Veterans to come regardless of their beliefs or traditions.



"Healing the wounds of war has always been a timeless, sacred and spiritual work," says Nathan Graeser, Community Program Administrator at USC. "The renovation of the *Wadsworth Chapel* can be the shining light for the soul of this work- ensuring the West LA VA campus to be the healing place our veterans deserve. The chapel is the soul of military bases all over the world. The renovation of the *Wadsworth Chapel* brings the soul back to a West LA VA campus in dire need of reform. You can not underestimate the power of bringing the soul back to the work of healing."

To fully renovate the *Wadsworth Chapel*, **1887 Fund** seeks to raise \$22 million in private philanthropic support. These funds will be directly used to fund the design, construction, and restoration of the chapel. **1887 Fund** seeks first to secure the \$10 million in commitments necessary to complete the design and to then begin construction and we aim to meet this objective by December 2017. The next milestone will be raising the full \$22 million to finalize construction and host a celebration at the Chapel with a target completion date of June 2018.



Looking to the Future

1887 Fund dreams of the day when Los Angeles Veterans will, once again, have a place to call home. We believe that the *Wadsworth Chapel* will be a sign of hope for this renewed home for our country's soldiers and a major first step toward completing a larger master plan for the campus.

Upon completion of the Chapel, **1887 Fund** will begin efforts to renovate and restore four additional properties on the Pacific Branch Campus including the *Governor's Mansion*, *Superintendent's Home*, *Trolley Station*, and *Hoover Barracks*. Additionally, **1887 Fund** seeks to establish an endowment to support the maintenance and upkeep of these historic properties for generations to come. In total, **1887 Fund** will seek to raise a minimum of \$50 million in the coming years to accomplish this necessary and important vision.

Join with our **1887 Fund** leadership as we embark on this historic undertaking to support the care and well-being of our veterans throughout the Los Angeles region.



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