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The Essex Foundation Kicks Off Matching Gift Challenge for Veterans Hall Expansion Project Community Asked to Help Support Renovation Efforts by Local Vets

Essex, CT – The Essex Foundation Board of Directors has kicked off a matching gift fundraising campaign to support Essex Veterans Memorial Hall members in their efforts to expand and improve the building to welcome more community members and better serve their needs. Plans are in place to enlarge and renovate the kitchen, add a new porch and outdoor dining area, install a new roof and ADA accessible ramp, and update the meeting room interior. Hall members will provide most of the labor but need the community's help to raise \$100,000 to cover all other expenses. Every dollar up to \$50,000 donated by individuals and organizations through The Essex Foundation will be matched 100% by the Foundation. A gift of \$50 to the Essex Foundation becomes \$100 donated to Essex Veterans Memorial Hall. A gift of \$250 will be matched with an additional \$250. No contribution is too small or too large and all will have double the impact. According to the Foundation's President Bruce Glowac, "This is the type of community project that we are honored to support and encourage others to do so as well. The Hall is not only a great resource for our retired and active military members but also for our local scout and community service groups."

Essex Veterans Memorial Hall is the last known stand-alone, 501(c)(19) nonprofit veterans' organization on the East Coast. After World War II the Town of Essex conveyed the Centerbrook Schoolhouse to the group for \$1 with the stipulation that the organization remain intact and take full responsibility for maintaining the building. Located at 3 Westbrook Road in the Centerbrook, it now serves as a resource for 180 members, their families, and the greater community. Other nonprofit groups use the Hall free of charge for meetings and activities. Non-members can rent the space for special events and celebrations. With recent renovations, parking lot improvements, and the installation of a stand-by generator, also supported by grants from The Essex Foundation, the Hall can also be used as a community comfort station during storm-related power outages. Paul Knudsen, the Hall's House Committee Chairman, is overseeing the planning and construction work. "We are truly grateful for the tremendous support and shared enthusiasm for making the Hall a more vibrant community center. Most people are not aware that you do not have to be a member to have lunch here or rent the space – hopefully this project will help get the word out."

Founded in 1970, The Essex Foundation, Inc is a 501(3)(c) nonprofit organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Essex citizens by providing support for new services and needs not met by other charitable organizations. All donations for the Essex Veterans Hall expansion project will be matched through November 30 and are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law. For more information and to donate online, go to www.TheEssexFoundation.org/matching-gift-challenge. To donate by mail, send a check payable to The Essex Foundation, with EVMH Project in the subject line, and mail to PO Box 64, Essex, CT 06426.



Pictured Above: Bruce Glowac of The Essex Foundation (center) is joined by Essex Veterans Memorial Hall members Paul Knudsen (left) and Jerry LaMark at the recently installed sign announcing the Foundation's matching gift challenge to raise funds for expanding the building to better to serve local veterans and the greater community.