



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **County Supports Project to Commemorate McEntee Legacy of Peace and Social Justice, Scholarships for Youth**

SAN JOSE, CALIF.— Jim McEntee Sr., now deceased, was a man who dedicated his life to peace and social justice for all people. Today, the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors honored McEntee by committing \$15,000 to the Jim McEntee Legacy Project and approving the conceptual artwork and “Gathering Place for Peace” design for the James P. McEntee, Sr. Civic Center Plaza.

“Those of us who knew Jim have an affection and admiration for his exemplary life. He represented the best of humanity in Santa Clara County,” said Supervisor Blanca Alvarado. “The proposed artwork represents the essence of his life.”

In May 2005, the Board of Supervisors named the plaza in front of the main government center at 70 West Hedding Street as the James P. McEntee, Sr. Civic Center Plaza. Today, the Board approved contributing \$15,000 to the project for glass replacement costs for the art mural and signage for the project. The Jim McEntee Legacy Committee, a group of volunteers working to commemorate Jim's lifetime commitment to peacemaking and social justice, is working to construct a public art project and establish a college scholarship fund for low-income students. The committee, with the assistance of Delgadillo & Associates, plans to raise \$130,000 by June 30 for the project.

McEntee, who passed away in September 2004, served as the Director of Human Relations for Santa Clara County for 27 years. His work was instrumental in building a sense of community in Santa Clara County.

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“We will continue to remember Jim’s strong values and love for the community,” said Ann McEntee, Jim’s wife and Chair of the Legacy committee. “The Gathering Place for Peace will be a symbol of how he lived his life, and inspire future generations.”

The committee’s goal is to honor McEntee’s spirit and values, and believes it is essential that the public artwork reflect his simple style and lifelong solidarity with the poor. Because Jim was embraced by so many in the county, it was critical that the community help shape the design concept. The committee held more than 20 focus groups to gather community input.

“This is a wonderful tribute to Jim,” said Supervisor Pete McHugh. “He inspired many people with his dedication to making the world a better place.”

The project’s art elements will include a glass mural and, in the plaza, a gathering place surrounded by benches with a “dove” tile design in the center. The committee has contracted with San Jose artist Carlos Pérez to create the artwork that will carry on McEntee’s message of peace, non-violence and respect for all people. “The project will commemorate Jim’s life in a substantial way,” said Supervisor Liz Kniss.

“Jim left his mark on the community. He saw beyond stereotypes and barriers and helped people in need,” said Supervisor Ken Yeager.

“Jim made decisions with his heart,” said Supervisor Don Gage. “This project will remind the community of his dedication and caring heart.”

For more information on the Jim McEntee Legacy Project, go to [www.JimMcEnteeLegacy.org](http://www.JimMcEnteeLegacy.org).

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