



County of Santa Cruz Deputy Sheriff's Association

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DSA MAKES RECORD DONATION TO SUPPORT MEMORIAL

The Deputy Sheriff's Association is pleased to announce its members have overwhelmingly voted to contribute a \$100,000 challenge grant toward a memorial for Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller, who was killed in the line of duty on June 6, 2020.

It is the largest donation in the history of the Deputy Sheriff's Association. The DSA hopes the community will match or exceed the donation, with numerous community members and businesses having already contributed another \$18,000 toward the memorial, including a substantial donation from Red Apple Café in Aptos.

"The contribution is a commitment to the community, to Damon's family and to our fallen brother," said DSA president Ethan Rumrill. "This project brings all of us together, and we invite everyone to remember Damon by making this project a reality through their own contributions."

To be located at Willowbrook County Park, the memorial will include the installation of a memorial seating area, park entry enhancements, updates and enhancements to the play area and sport courts and a new flagpole. Gutzwiller and his dog Shasta frequented Willowbrook Park, and he was a resident of the Willowbrook neighborhood.

"We are grateful to see the continuing support and love from our neighbors," said Faviola Del Real, Gutzwiller's life partner. "We have lost so much, and this project will stand as a reminder that there is one thing we will never lose – the memory of the sacrifice that Damon made on behalf of his hometown."

Led by County Park Friends, the Willowbrook Park Gutzwiller Memorial campaign's goal is to raise \$805,000 in community donations and sponsorships. A variety of giving opportunities are available. Visit <https://www.countyparkfriends.org/willowbrook.html> for more information, schematics of planned park renovations or to make a donation.