With private funding, you built these walls. Whether you gave directly to the capital campaign or donated to the programs and initiatives of US Lacrosse, you had a hand in not only imagining, but believing in, what one building can do. Your continuous support propelled the sport to this milestone: a definitive place for lacrosse in a new state-of-the-art building and training center.

With love of lacrosse, you imagined a place that could inspire, educate, create, honor and reflect. Your belief, passion and commitment showed us how important lacrosse is to you, and raised the bar for new ways US Lacrosse can serve the sport. Your choice to enrich lives with lacrosse has and will continue to impact the players, coaches, officials, parents and fans for generations to come.

To the 1220 capital campaign donors, a simple thank you will never be enough. To the more than 1200 fans who joined us on Sunday, September 11, thank you for showing us the joy that lacrosse brings to you. To all, you left an indelible mark on the sport of lacrosse as we celebrated, honored, cheered and cried at the Grand Opening of the new US Lacrosse National Headquarters.

We knew we were taking a chance in holding the Grand Opening on 9/11/2016, the very somber 15th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the U.S. However, if we have learned anything from those who play, coach or officiate the sport of lacrosse, it is that lacrosse is a source of strength, pride and love. Time and time again, you have showed us that lacrosse heals. And it does.

We forged ahead knowing that 9/11 would be the perfect day to display the indomitable spirit of lacrosse that unites the past with the future, to reflect on the blessings of the Native Americans to keep us grounded, to illustrate that we rise on the shoulders of those who came before us, and to showcase the strength of our sport and nation with games between the best (Team USA), the bravest (FDNY) and the finest (NYPD).

And at the end of the day, it was the words of Bonnie McEneaney (wife of Hall of Fame member Eamon McEneaney killed on 9/11) and CPT. Ben Harrow (USMA 2005, Green Beret wounded in conflict) during the 9/11 Memorial Garden dedication that brought it all home: we are all part of the same lacrosse family.

Welcome to your new home.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
J. Gordon Cooney, Jr., Chair
Ed Norberg, Treasurer
Kristin Noto, Secretary

DONOR PERSPECTIVE
When I received my first lacrosse stick, World War II was in full force. Over the next several decades, I was able to play lacrosse at all levels, including internationally in Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, and England. I was also able to serve in various roles with the original Lacrosse Foundation, the U.S. Club Lacrosse Association, the U.S. Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association, US Lacrosse, and the International Lacrosse Federation. I was fortunate to be inducted as a player into The National Lacrosse Hall of Fame, The New York Sports Hall of Fame, and the Greater Baltimore and the Long Island Metropolitan Lacrosse Halls of Fame. During that time, I was proud of lacrosse’s appellation of “America’s Fastest Growing Sport.” However, I did not have the vision for lacrosse that Steve Steenerson and a few others had: a vision of a unified national governing body serving 450,000 male and female members of US Lacrosse; of an operating budget of $20 million to fuel the growth and enrich the experience of participants; of an inclusive sport that offers everyone the lifelong opportunity to enjoy lacrosse (ironic since I am still playing); of a World Championship in Denver, with more than 40 countries participating; and of a $15 million headquarters funded by private donations that would be the heart of the sport.

I never dreamed I would see that vision. I could barely imagine it. But, as I stood on the promenade on Grand Opening Weekend, I looked around and saw that vision. One beautiful building, buzzing with old timers and young children, and everyone in between, brought that vision home to me as a reality. I am thrilled that my contemporaries and I can pass this building and all it represents on to our children and grandchildren. This is the pinnacle of lacrosse.

My hat (or, should I say, my helmet) is off to those people who made that reality occur. - Howard “Cookie” Krongard

INVESTMENT IN THE NATIONAL TEAMS PROGRAM
Stop by the new National Lacrosse Hall of Fame and Museum and you will see an area dedicated to the men and women who have donned the red, white and blue for Team USA. Then look outside at the stadium and field, and head downstairs to the new Team USA locker rooms and training room, and you will see how far Team USA has come. What a difference a couple of decades and a commitment to elevating lacrosse players to world-class athletes and worldwide ambassadors makes.

Gone are the days when Team USA was a group of young men and women who showed up at the World Games or World Cup and dominated the field with little-to-no team practice, in humble uniforms and random equipment. Gone are the days of negotiating contracts with other facilities to practice and train, now saving us thousands of dollars in fees for weekend training sessions. The national training center for Team USA is now located at the US Lacrosse National Headquarters, with everything the team needs to succeed.

Here are the days when those aspiring to represent the United States on fields around the world have a home to call their own. The facility that we hope to be the best, a reminder of those who came before and on whose shoulders they stand, an infrastructure for the ultimate goal to compete and win gold at the World Games.

The facility has already been put to the test. The U.S. Men’s Under-19 National Team trained here in June on their journey to win gold in Canada in July. The U.S. Women’s National Team held tryouts in August to select the 36 member training team. The U.S. Men’s and Women’s National Teams held player clinics during the grand opening weekend. The Team USA Fall Classic welcomed teams from Canada, Australia, England and the University of North Carolina to compete against the U.S. Women’s National Training Team as a tune-up to the FIL World Lacrosse Championships in July 2017. And in November, the U.S. Men’s Under-19 National Team will receive their gold rings at a ceremony at the new national training center.

The building is buzzing with members of Team USA who not only represent the best the US has to offer on the field, but serve as inspirational and ardent ambassadors of lacrosse, displaying unwavering character as fierce competitors with humble hearts as they travel the world, engaging with youth and adults alike across the country and abroad. It is only fitting that now they have a proper home to return to.
MAKE A SECURE GIFT TODAY AT USLACROSSE.ORG/DONATE
THE GAME OF LACROSSE IS ONE OF COMMUNITY: TEAMWORK, BONDING, SUPPORT AND LOVE. THE STADIUM - WHERE 500 PEOPLE CAN SIT TO WATCH A GAME IN THE STANDS AND AN ADDITIONAL 1000 CAN SIT ON THE GRASS BERM HARKENING BACK TO EARLIER DAYS - IS CREDITED AS ORIGINS OF ARMED ARMIES, BY THE HENRY A. ROSENBERG, JR. PROMENADE LINED WITH PILARS OF COLLEGIATE PROGRAMS WHO HAVE PROUD LACROSSE ROOTS. THE SYMBOLISM IS PALPABLE; THE PLAYERS ARE SURROUNDED, SUPPORTED AND PROTECTED BY THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE, THOSE WHO BUILT THE FOUNDATION OF THE MODERN GAME.

ON JUNE 4, THE ALUMNI OF THE BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY LACROSSE PROGRAM CELEBRATED THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR FOUNDING WITH A RECEPTION AND UNVEILING OF THEIR PILLAR IN HONOR OF LONGTIME COACH, MICKEY COCHRANE. EVEN THOUGH THE PROGRAM IS NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE, THEY HAVE TAKEN THEIR PLACE IN HISTORY AT THE NEW US LACROSSE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS WHERE THEY WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.


The site of perhaps the most emotional dedication ceremony at the Grand Opening, the 9/11 Memorial Garden serves as a place of reflection, strength and love. Designed by US Lacrosse board member Kris Snyder and dedicated with moving speeches about love of teammates and country by Bonnie McEnaney and CPT. Ben Harrow, the inscription reads: On September 11, 2001, many friends of lacrosse were among the thousands of lives lost during attacks against the United States. This memorial is dedicated to those who died on 9/11, as well as the men and women within our lacrosse community who have since been inspired to serve in the United States Forces or as first responders. The commitment and sacrifice of these selfless Americans and their families represent the best of lacrosse, and this site honors their spirit, memory and legacy.

And in honor of those lost and those who serve, the Bravest (FDNY) and the Finest (NYPD) took the field to play, gather and reflect on the impact lacrosse has had on their lives, and the lives of others.
LACROSSE'S LARGEST
EDUCATIONAL EVENT

JAN. 20-22, 2017
Baltimore Convention Center

Featured speakers include world champion Team USA U19 men's coach Nick Myers and three-time Tewaaraton Award winner Taylor Cummings.

Register by Jan. 17 & Save!

Members: $100
Walk-Up: $160

uslacrosse.org/laxcon

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