CLUB
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As chairman of the club's building and finance committee, Taylor has watched contributions both large and small trickle in from members and from other veterans' clubs. Many members chipped in at least $100 each toward the building fund.

The old two-story building at the corner of Commerce Avenue and Williams Street SE in the Heartside neighborhood was gutted by a Nov. 7, 1989 fire that left the structure and contents a total loss. Fire investigators determined the arson fire that was believed to have started on the building's south side.

After the fire, dozens of members drove to the club to look inside at the building and charred interior, which was littered with several feet of waterlogged debris from the roof and walls.

Established in 1937, the club was named after Crispus Attucks, a former slave and the first American to die in the Revolutionary War.

Mayhue cannot wait for the day when members move into their new home.

"This is pretty much what we would call the Cadillac of the industry," Mayhue said. "Our last facility was really in pretty bad shape."

The building will have tighter security, Mayhue said, and with 7,500 square feet of space, much more room than the old facility. It will have a multi-purpose room which the club intends to rent out to help pay back the loan.

In addition, Mayhue said, the club is applying for a license to offer bingo as another means to raise funds.

John Hyatt, former post commander, said he never doubted this day would come.

"We hadn't thought about giving up," Hyatt said. "It's just a matter of time and getting all the members interested."