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#### MEMORANDUM

TO: PMC/DA RE: VIETNAM VETERANS' MEMORIAL

FROM: GHJ

DATE: November 17, 1981

#### 1. WHAT:

Memorial to Vietnam War Veterans to be constructed on the Mall. Authorization for use of that land is granted by Congress in S.J. Res. 119 (PL 96-297).

-Resolution authorizes a memorial "in honor and recognition of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in Vietnam."

-Cosponsors included PMC. Concept endorsed by a cast of 1000s including Bob Hope (who signed the letter soliciting initial funds), and numerous great/notable Americans. Funding will be exclusively private--need \$7 million--have raised @ \$2.5 million.

#### 2. THE CURRENT DESIGN:

A 400 foot long black wall in the shape of an open "V", cut 10 feet below the surface of the Mall, and bearing the names of the 57,000-odd war dead, listed by date of death, not alphabetically. A pit with a black wall below ground level.

#### 3. WHY IT'S UNACCEPTABLE:

- -What memorial to Americans who served their country, regardless of the domestic political climate at the time is below ground level, in a pit?
- -Is this memorial representative of the kind of "honor and recognition" the Congress had in mind when it authorized the land use?
- -Shouldn't a monument to those 2.7 million Americans who served in Vietnam be immediately recognizable to future generations as representing their valor, heroism, devotion to duty and fidelity to country? What will they think when viewing the travesty proposed?
- -Black is the universal color of dishonor and shame; associated with death.
- -Design competition weighted in favor of memorial honoring war dead, not all who served.
- -9 judges none of whom was a Vietnam veteran only veteran from WWI Italian Army.

Page 2
Memo
17 Nov 81

4. THE SITUATION:

A. Approval by 3 entities required before construction can begin. Commission on Fine Arts and National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) have approved. The 90-day time period for objection by Secretary of Interior has lapsed. Law states that lack of objection means approval. If any object, revised proposal must undergo entire process again.

B. Secretary Watt has been informed and is having legalities researched. Watt's Deputy Assistant Secretary to whom I spoke, indicated that VVMF changes to the design/plan mean that original proposal submitted is invalid and process must begin again. He related that a Congressional

changes to the design/plan mean that original proposal submitted is invalid and process must begin again. He related that a Congressional letter to Watt would be most useful support.

C. The opposition: VVMF has made some cosmetic modifications to the plan in an attempt to disarm critics of the design. Since the original

C. The opposition: VVMF has made some cosmetic modifications to the plan in an attempt to disarm critics of the design. Since the original proposal was submitted to the approving bodies, an acceptable inscription has been added; the color black they heralded as representing dignity and respect; access for the handicapped, safety and drainage (bottom of pit will be 4 feet below water table) provisions are being worked out; and there is discussion about adding the American flag—somewhere on the 2 acre plot, in other words, not at the wall.

#### 5. THE MEMORIAL SHOULD:

- -Be at or above ground level.
- -Be white.
- -Be constructed with American materials by American labor. (Black granite has been ordered from India.)
- -Have the American flag flown over it.
- -Be engraved with the words of the authorizing legislation "... in honor and recognition..." etc. (VVMF design includes this.)
- -Have the names of the 57,000-odd dead, which will appear on the stone, arranged in alphabetical order.

#### 6. WHAT CAN BE DONE:

- A. Joint Congressional letter to Watt (draft attached).
- B. Letters to Commissions/Commissioners involved.
- C. Dear Colleagues (House and Senate) outlining objections and calling for support.
- D. Draft resolution to amend PL 96-297 to require House and Senate Armed Service Committees approval of design plan before project started (ground breaking set for 01 Mar 82).
- E. Private letter to Ed Meese informing, asking support.
- F. Record inserts.
- G. Activate conservative network to make noise.



National Headquarters • 933 North Kenmore Street Arlington, Virginia 22201 • (703) 524-1137

Incorporated by an Act of Congress

Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune Founder

November 19, 1981

Mr. G. Harris Jordan Legislative Assistant to Congressman Philip M. Crane 1035 Longworth Building Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Jordan,

Per our conversation earlier this morning, I am enclosing a copy of our approved legislative committee report in the form of a Memorandum for the Record dated October 22, 1981, and other data I hold in my file relative to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

I appreciate your interest in this matter and want to extend every best wish for success in your efforts.

Sincerely,

C. L. Kammeier Executive Director



## National Headquarters 933 North Kenmore Street Arlington, Virginia 22201 • (703) 524-1137

Incorporated by an Act of Congress

LI Gen John A Lejeune Founder

November 5, 1981

The Honorable
Don Bailey
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Bailey,

Per telephone conversation with Mike Leahy, one of our members, I learned of your interest in the final design and inscription for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Mr. Leahy also indicated that in a conversation with you as a result of a Capitol Hill Workshop for the Naval Aviation Executive Institute on November 20, 1981, you were interested in reactions to the selected design of the memorial. Accordingly, I am enclosing data per your request through Mr. Leahy.

Of significance is the Memorandum for the Record of October 22, 1981, which reflects the approved minutes of our National Legislative Committee meeting of that same date. Subparagraph 2c obtains.

Of additional interest is the composition of the committee, which includes the James H. Webb, Jr., author of Fields of Fire and Sense of Honor. Of the remaining members of the committee, including Mr. Webb, but excluding BGen. J. D. Hittle, all are Vietnam Veterans.

Your interest in this matter is very much appreciated.

I would also like to report that U. S. Representative Philip Crane has also expressed concern regarding the selected design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Sincerely,

C. L. Kammeier

Executive Director



National Headquarters • 933 North Kenmore Street Arlington, Virginia 22201 • (703) 524-1137

Incorporated by an Act of Congress

Lt. Gen John A. Lejeune Founder

October 22, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subj: Legislative Committee Meeting

1. A meeting of the National Legislative Committee was called by the Chairman, Richard W. Johnson, Jr., to convene at the Capital Hill Club at 1230 this date. The following members were present:

Richard W. Johnson, Jr. - Chairman C. A. (Mack) McKinney Herbert N. Harmon James H. Webb, Jr. C. L. Kammeier BGen. J. D. Hittle, USMC (Ret.)

- 2. An agenda of topics was presented by the Chairman, as identified by the subparagraphs following, and with the outcome based on majority vote as follows:
- a. Education Bill. To support national legislative to reinstate educational benefits, similar to the "GI Bill" including provisions for transferability to dependents on a contributary basis. There was one abstention in voting based on a preference for transferability on a noncontributary basis. Carried by majority vote to support on contributary basis.
- b. Unemployment Compensation. The President's Budget Reform Act recently approved by the U. S. Congress provides that Unemployment Compensation may be paid to those veterans who serve one year of military service or greater and who may be discharged for reasons other than completion of their military service, and to those who are not recommended for reenlistment. The provision denies unemployment compensation to those military service members who are discharged with honorable service and who are recommended for reenlistment. The committee was unanimous in supporting legislation to provide for eligibility for Unemployment Compensation for those military service members who are discharged as a result of honorable service, or who are transferred to the retired list.
- c. Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. The National Legislative Committee has gone on record as supporting the concept of a suitable Vietnam Veterans Memorial, including the federal grant of property in the nation's capital. Following the Congressional approval of the land grant a design competition was held and the final selection of the memorial design has been approved by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. The Legislative Committee adopted the following as a unanimous statement of position regarding the memorial. "The design that has been selected is inappropriate. It represents an insult to the memory of those it is intended

to memorialize. The Vietnam veterans deserve better. The Marine Corps League hereby withdraws its support to the memorial in the design that is now proposed." (The National Commandant was advised of the decision of the National Legislative Committee and telephonically voiced his support of the decision.)

- d. AWACS. The Committee reconfirmed its earlier telephonic approval of the President's AWACS Package for the nation of Saudi Arabia.
- e. Federal legislation to change the provisions of Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c)(19). The provisions of the IRS Code now require that War Veterans Organizations filing for tax exemption under 501(c)(19) maintain a membership to include not less than 75% war time veterans as defined by the U. S. Congress. The Marine Corps League National Legislative Committee unanimously adopted to support legislation to modify the requirements of the code to require members of war veterans organizations to be veterans or active duty members of the Armed Services, and which would exclude the present requirement of war time service for 75% of its total membership.
- f. <u>Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Program</u>. Inequities in the program, which basically provides for compensation to dependents of deceased service members based on military rank of the deceased member was discussed. Following discussion, the matter was tabled for future study and another meeting.
- g. <u>Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)</u>. The National Legislative Committee adopted a position of opposing restructuring of military retirement, Social Security Benefits, veterans benefits and other federal benefits Cost of Living Adjustments, which are now keyed to inflation and as determined by the Consumer Price Index. The committee vote reflected one abstention; however, the position was adopted by majority vote. The committee also adopted a recommendation to send a letter on behalf of the Marine Corps League to the President urging him to stick by a campaign promise, and which obtained the support of the retired military community, which reflected that he would not alter the cost of living pay adjustments for retired military members.

Respectfully submitted,

Kammeier

Recorder

Copy to:
Nat1Bd of Trustees
Department Commandants

2309 North Glebe Road ... Arlington, Virginia 22207 12 October, 1981

#### TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. FINE ARTS COMMISSION:

Upon the recommendation of both Mr. Charles Atherton of the Fine Arts Commission, and Mr. Jack Wheeler of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation, I am forwarding this letter to you, with a request that it be made part of the official record in the matter of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial under consideration by your Commission.

I am a Marine Corps combat veteran of Vietnam, and have worked on veterans issues for several years, both as a counsel for the Veterans Affairs Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives and as a novelist. I have been privileged to serve on the National Sponsoring Committee for the VVMF, and it was my honor that my novel FIELDS OF FIRE was recommended reading for the judging panel in this competition. Because of these activities and their connection with the war, I am often contacted by veterans, both individually and through their organizations. Since the winner of design competition for the proposed Memorial was announced earlier this year, I have discussed the design with numerous Vietnam veterans from across the country, and their reaction has been almost unanimously negative.

This negative reaction has centered on a precise collection of disappointments, roughly summarized as follows:

- 1. Although the monument was not to be a "political statement," but rather a healing device, the choice of a black hole in the ground, a cave if you would, listing the names of those who died, is itself a very strong nihilistic statement regarding the war. Vietnam veterans themselves do not share this nihilism. In the most comprehensive survey to date, the Harris Survey of July, 1980 commissioned by the VA, 91 percent of Vietnam theater veterans stated that they were glad they had served their country. Other, equally graphic data is available.
- 2. In a monument dedicated to those who fought a war, nowhere do we see, in any context, the implements of war. One doesn't

need cannon and bayonets to be reminded that the memorial is dedicated to those who served in a war, but certainly, some part of the monument should relate to a patriotic offering of one's life on the altar of his culture. Some elements of this country may be embarrassed that this war in fact occurred, but this sort of artistic denial of that reality, when so many carry around its scars, is one of the purest forms of denigration imaginable. The nation that called on these men to bleed should not permit a monument that implies they should be ashamed of their scars.

The judging panel had no Vietnam veterans on it, and as such lacked the acute sensitivity needed to place the emotions of the issue in their proper context. The counterargument to this is that a Vietnam veteran would be quided by his singular view of the war, and that the judging panel would have deferred too heavily to such a biased perspective. The VVMF has stated on this point that, "because of the other jury members' empathy for such a person, they might be swayed too greatly by that person's opinion ... and the memorial might then become an expression of the experience of one man or a small group." This argument, while sincere, is interpreted by many to be condescending, the inference being that a Vietnam veteran with artistic skill and broadly based sensitivities would be unable to overcome his parochialism regarding his own experience. Unfortunately, our society is only now beginning to assimilate Vietnam in a context that breathes dignity into the acts of those who served, and the judging panel demonstrably could have used the insight of a veteran, since the veterans are ahead of the artists in this regard. This monument will last into the eons, and if it is not modified, it will reflect the incomplete assimilation process of the judges at one point in time, rather than making the definitive healing statement we all had so hoped for.

In a perfect world, my petition to this Commission would be that the monument be rejected and the competition be re-opened, with a Vietnam veteran as a member of the judging panel. However, I believe this would be injurious to the objective process by which the design was selected (however flawed in the judging panel's makeup), and would probably injure the efforts of the VVMF to build any monument whatsoever. Neither I nor the majority of the veterans I have spoken to desire to "destroy the monument in order to save it." The VVMF has done a salutory job, and it is my desire to continue to help them. However, for the sake of the "message" that this monument will communicate to generations of our countrymen regarding the principles for which so many

of us fought and bled, I believe the following modifications must be accomplished:

l. The American flag must be flown in a conspicuous place. The flag became an unhappy symbol of the war's unpopularity. Many who opposed the war made a mockery of the flag of by burning it publicly, wearing it as an article of clothing, flying it upside down, or replacing it with a Viet Cong flag on various mastheads. Many who fought the war will always relate to the flag with a great deal of emotion. I think, for instance, of the Marines of my company, who erected the American flag at the citadel in the battle for Hue City during TET 1968, at great cost. Although this occurred before I joined the company, it was always a source of pride. The flag should be shown in a lighted place, preferably at the juncture of the two walls, to symbolize the coming together of all factions, under the unity of our system of laws and values.

It should also be mentioned that the location of the flag at this point would serve as a safety factor, since the monument will not be visible from Constitution Avenue, and could be the cause of numerous accidents as people unknowingly walk or push wheelchairs over its top and fall into the "cave."

- 2. In the absence of the artifacts of war, the monument itself must contain a strong inscription denoting the values for which our countrymen fought and died. I have been shown the proposed inscription by the VVMF, and believe it will constitute a fitting tribute, to read as follows: "To honor and recognize the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam war, the names inscribed here preserve the memory of those who gave their lives and those who remain missing. As their names are ordered, in that order did the war claim them." And later, "These memorial grounds are dedicated to the courage, sacrifice and devotion to duty of all who served. Built through the private donations of Americans, November 11, 1982."
- 3. The memorial should either be raised above ground, or the stone should be changed from black to white. It is true that other monuments to wartime acts have been made of black granite. However, none of these employ the "cave" technique which, combined with black stone, create the mood of a black hole, the inference being that these Americans gave their lives performing acts that must be viewed with shame, during a dark period in our history. This "cave" symbology is the most frequent criticism I have heard from those who fought the

war. It could be responded to by either allowing the names to be carved on white granite, or by allowing the memorial to peak, in effect turning it upside—down, if for some reason the black is considered essential to the design. In light of the serious drainage problems at the site, perhaps the latter recommendation would be the most logical.

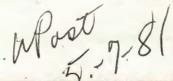
4. The chronological listing of the names of those who gave their lives must be either modified or abandoned. This is a much-discussed item at the Commission itself, and I will not clutter it with redundant argument.

I trust this information is useful to the Commission. I cannot overstate its importance to those who served and to our entire posterity.

Sincerely,

Johnson

James Webb



# Epitaph for Vietnam

# Memorial Design Is Selected

By Henry Allen

For the dead whom few wanted to remember after a war few could forget, a woman who was 4 years old when the first bodies came home has designed a national memorial to be built on the Mall.

Maya Ying Lin, who is 21 and a Yale undergraduate architecture student, was picked out of 1,420 entrants as winner of a competition sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

"I liked my idea but I-knew it was never going to be chosen — it was too different, too strange," said Lin, whose parents emigrated from China in 1948 and teach at Ohio University.

The memorial design shows two polished black granite walls, each 200 feet long. They meet to form an oblique triangle. Inside the triangle the ground falls away at a five-degree slope until it reaches the apex. There, the walls will be 10 feet high. They will be inscribed with the names of the 57,692 Americans killed in Vietnam between 1963 and 1973. The names, in letters 3/4 of an inch high, will be listed in chronological order of death.

Said Lin: "These names, seemingly infinite in humber: convey the sense of overwhelming numbers, while unifying those individuals into a whole. For this memorial is not meant as a memorial to the individual, but rather as a me-

See MEMORIAL, F3, Col. 1



morial to the men and women who died during the war, a whole.

Her design does not mention the war itself, or the Republic of South Vietnam; only the names of the dead.

Washington architect Paul D. Spreiregen, who served as a professional adviser to the memorial fund, quoted one of the jurors as saving: "In a city of white memorials rising, this will be a dark memorial receding." He said the jury, composed of two architects, two landscape architects, three sculptors and an architectural editor, had decided on a minimalist design because people can bring to it what ever they want."

5 p.m. and midnight. With five minutes to go, there was one woman who had her design laid out in the parking lot, filling in the return address."

The memorial is the brainchild of a Vietnam veteran named Jan Scruggs. At the prize announcement, he said:

"In 1970 I was a teen-ager with an Army infantry company. By the end because people can bring to it what been killed or wounded. In 1976 I

Said Lin: "The design sort of popped into my head. I wanted some sort of journey into the earth."

She submitted it as part of course work in funerary architecture at Yale. Both she and her professor entered the contest. The professor gave her a B in the course. She won the \$20,000 first prize.

Asked for her memories of the war, she said: "It didn't enter my world. I remember there were riots, and my parents would never let me out of the house when there were riots. Later on, the realization of the youth of the people involved came to me — that they'd been killed in the war or while protesting."

Asked about the fact that neither the war nor the country it was fought in is mentioned in the design, Robert Doubek, project director, said: "Does Washington's name appear on the Washington monument? You would have to be very oblivious to reality to not know where they died."

Doubek said that "one of the sub-mitted designs had a big peace sign on top of it, but there were very few with political messages."

With 1,420 entries, requiring an estimated 80 man-years of work, this was the biggest design competition in the history of this country, Doubek said. "I was out at the warehouse in Capitol Heights on March 31, the deadline. We got 150 entries between 5 p.m. and midnight. With five minutes to go, there was one woman who had her design laid out in the parking lot, filling in the return address."

The memorial is the brainchild of a Vietnam veteran named Jan Scruggs. At the prize announcement, he said: "In 1970 I was a teen-ager with an Army infantry company. By the end of my tour, half my company had been killed or wounded. In 1976 I presented tetimony to Congress about the Vietnam veterans — their lowered self-esteem, marital difficulties and other problems. In 1979 I had the idea for the memorial, for something the government couldn't adequately provide — recognition. It's not a memorial to honor the war but the sacrifice of the Vietnam veterans."

Scruggs went to Sen. Charles Mathias (R-Md.), who introduced a bill to give the memorial a site. Sen. John Warner (R-Va.) helped raise seed money for a national fund-raising tampaign by holding a fund-raising breakfast at his home.

So far, the fund has raised \$1.2 million and has set Veterans Day (Nov. 11) 1982 as the date they hope to unveil the memorial, which will be in the Constitution Gardens section of the Mall, near the Lincoln Memorial.

The second-place winner, awarded \$10,000, was a team headed by architect Marvin Krosinsky, of Island Park, N.Y., and the third prize of \$5,000 was won by an-Alexandria team headed by landscape architect Joseph F. Brown. All of the entries will be ondisplay on May 9 at Hangar No. 3 at Andrews Air Force Base.

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#### 24 November 1981

Jan Scruggs, President Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund 1110 Vermont Avenue, NW Suite 308 Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Jan:

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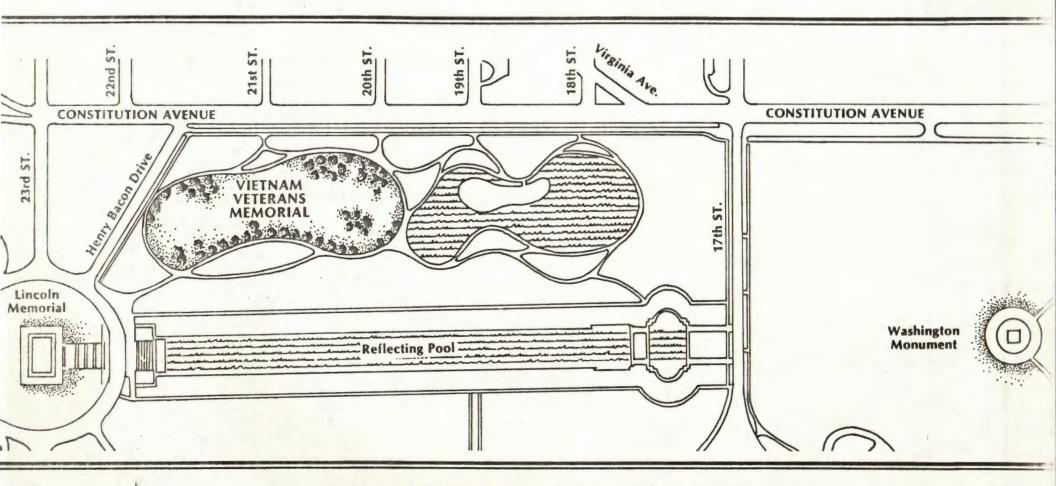
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Having received no response to my several communications with VVMF regarding the inadequacy of the proposed design, I must unfortunately resign from the National Sponsoring Committee, effective immediately, for so long as this design continues to be the plan for the Memorial. Any representation or communication from the Fund, either written or oral, from the date of receipt of this letter, that either states or implies that I support the proposed design will be a misrepresentation, and will be treated as such by me.

Sincerely,

James Webb

Cops



#### **VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL SITE**

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.
1110 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 308, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202)659-2490

#### FACT SHEET

#### VIETNAM VETERANS' MEMORIAL

#### 1. WHAT:

Memorial to Vietnam War Veterans to be constructed on the Mall. Authorization for use of that land is granted by Congress in S.J. Res. 119 (PL 96-297).

-Resolution authorizes a memorial in honor and recognition of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in Vietnam."

-Concept endorsed by a cast of 1000s including Bob Hope (who signed the letter soliciting initial funds), and numerous great/notable Americans. Funding will be exclusively private—need \$7 million—have raised @ \$2.5 million.

-Will be located on donated U.S. Park land near Lincoln Memorial.

#### 2. THE CURRENT DESIGN:

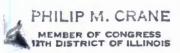
A 400 foot long black wall in the shape of an open "V", cut 10 feet below the surface of the Mall, and bearing the names of the 57,000-odd war dead, listed by date of death, not alphabetically. A pit with a black wall below ground level.

#### 3. WHY IT'S UNACCEPTABLE:

- -Inappropriate recognition of men and women who served and died in Vietnam.
- -What memorial to Americans who served their country, regardless of the domestic political climate at the time, is below ground level, in a pit?
- -Is this memorial representative of the kind of "honor and recognition" the Congress had in mind when it authorized the land use?
- -Shouldn't a monument to those 2.7 million Americans who served in Vietnam be immediately recognizable to future generations as representing their valor, heroism, devotion to duty and fidelity to country?
- -Black in this context symbolizes, evil, dishonor and shame.
- -Design competition improperly emphasized only tragic aspects of our losses, not all who served.
- -9 judges none of whom was a Vietnam veteran

#### 4. THE MEMORIAL SHOULD:

- -Be at or above ground level.
- -Not present dark or shameful visage.
- -Be constructed with American materials by American labor. (Black granite has been ordered from India.)
- -Have the American flag flown over it.
- -Be engraved with the words of the authorizing legislation "... in honor and recognition..." etc.
- -Have the names of the 57,000-odd dead, which will appear on the stone, arranged in alphabetical order.



#### WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OVERSIGHT
HEALTH
SOCIAL SECURITY



## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

SUITE 1035
LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
202/225-3711

DAVID J. ALLEN

SUITE 101 1450 SOUTH NEW WILKE ROAD ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60005 312/394-0790

November 20, 1981

The Honorable James G. Watt The Secretary of Interior Department of Interior C Street Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Some time ago, we all thought that we had finally taken action that would honor those who served in the Vietnam war. No matter what our individual attitudes toward that conflict may have been, we agreed that those who rendered faithful service to this nation during that trying time should be honored and recognized for their selfless, patriotic actions. Accordingly, we passed Public Law 96-297, which is attached at "A". Therein, we said that

"the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund...is authorized to establish a memorial on public grounds...in honor and recognition of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam war."

In their application of this Congressional license, however, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) seems to have somewhat twisted things. In the design competition booklet that was distributed to all registered competitors before any designs had been submitted, the ground rules of the competition were laid out. Under a section of that booklet entitled. "The Purpose and Philosophy of the Memorial," the following paragraph (attached at "B") appears on page 5:

The purpose of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is to recognize and honor those who served and died. It will provide a symbol of acknowledgement of the courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty of those who were among the nation's finest youth. Whether they served because of their belief in the war policy, their belief in the obligation to answer the call of their country, or their simple acquiescence in a course of events beyond their control, their service was no less honorable than that rendered by Americans in any previous war. Those who served and died embodied values and ideals prized by this nation since its inception. The failure of the nation to honor them only extends the tragedy of our involvement in Vietnam." (Emphasis added.)

The subjects and objects of all the sentences in the above paragraph are "those who served and died", and "they", "them", and "those" pronouns which can only mean "those who served and died" - no other definition is possible. In other words, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund sought and selected a design that would be built as a memorial to the dead.

This is confirmed by the text of a letter sent by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to the Marine Corps League on 18 September 1981 (attached at "C"). On page of 2 of that letter appears the following:

"No matter how it met the foregoing criteria, the memorial was to express its purpose, which we set forth in the competition rules as follows:"

and then follows the above-quoted paragraph. While it is true that the 57,000 who died are among those who are the proposed subjects of this memorial, there are also 2.7 million others who returned to this country after faithful service in Vietnam who we seek to honor.

How did such an obvious variation on the intentions of Congress occur? Some light may be shed on that question by the last two lines of an editorial written by Jan Scruggs, now President of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, which was published in the Washington Post on 25 May 1977 (attached at "D"):

"No efforts can provide compensation, of course, to the Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. For them, perhaps, a national monument is in order, to remind an ungrateful nation of what it has done to its sons."

The result of the design competition for a memorial to the dead is a black wall sunk ten feet below ground on which the names of the dead will be carved. The widow of a Marine who died in Vietnam has compared it to the oven mouths at Dachau, and feels it is a grisley reminder of something ugly and shameful in America's past. A Navy Captain who was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for eight years feels that it will be a constant reminder to him of the daily litany he heard from his guards that described him as the "blackest of all criminals." Clearly, this is not what Congress intended when it authorized a memorial "in honor and recognition of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam war." We are proud of their selfless sacrifice for America, and we must have a memorial that clearly shows that.

Any memorial to be constructed will be for all eternity. It will become part of the Capital's visage. Delaying implementation of any design and plan for several weeks or even several months is inconsequential. Any memorial built will share the same hallowed grounds as the monument to the great American emancipator Abraham Lincoln. It is essential that any memorial constructed there be non-controversial, fitting and proper. It is important not to rush into a decision on any particular design.

Secretary Watt
Page Three

As Secretary of the Interior you have authority over and responsibility for any public lands on which a memorial will be built. Indeed these lands can be considered a national trust.

It is our understanding that the proposed design has been changed several times over the last several weeks, indeed, it is changing even now. We urge you to query VVMF as to its plans for additional modifications. Further, in light of the evidence presented herein, the undersigned urge you to thoroughly examine the proposed design and plans for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Sincerely,

Philip M. Crane		
	, .	

Public Law 96-297 96th Congress

#### Joint Resolution

To authorize the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., to establish a memorial.

July 1, 1980 [S.J. Res. 119]

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., a nonprofit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the District of Columbia, is authorized to establish a memorial on public grounds in West Potomac Park in the District of Columbia, in honor and recognition of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam war.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. establishment. 16 USC 431 note.

SEC. 2. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., is authorized and directed to select with the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission a suitable site of approximately two acres in size located in the area of West Potomac Park known as Constitution Gardens in the District of Columbia: Provided, That if subsurface soil conditions prevent the engineering of a feasible foundation system for the memorial in a location in that area, then the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., is authorized and directed to select a suitable site of approximately two acres in size located in an area of West Potomac Park north of Independence Avenue other than Constitution Gardens.

Location authorization.

(b) The design and plans for such memorial shall be subject to the Design plans. approval of the Secretary of the Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission: Provided, That if the Secretary of the Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts, or the National Capital Planning Commission fails to report his or its approval of or specific objection to such design and plans within ninety days of their submission, his or its approval shall be deemed to be given.

(c) Neither the United States nor the District of Columbia shall be Expenses. put to any expense in the establishment of the memorial.

SEC. 3. The authority conferred pursuant to this resolution shall lapse unless (1) the establishment of such memorial is commenced within five years from the date of enactment of this resolution, and (2) prior to groundbreaking for actual construction on the site, funds are certified available in an amount sufficient, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Interior based upon the approved design and plans for the memorial, to insure completion of the memorial.

Termination of authority.

94 STAT. 828

PUBLIC LAW 96-297-JULY 1, 1980

Memorial maintenance. SEC. 4. The maintenance and care of the memorial established under the provisions of this resolution shall be the responsibility of the Secretary of the Interior.

Approved July 1, 1980.

#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 96-1129 (Comm. of Conference).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 96-663 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources) and No. 96-832 (Comm. of Conference).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 126 (1980):

Apr. 30, considered and passed Senate.

May 20, considered and passed House, amended.

June 27, House agreed to conference report.

June 30, Senate agreed to conference report.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 16, No. 27:

July 1, Presidential statement.

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# FROM VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL DESIGN COMPETITION HANDROOK, ISSUED TO APPLICANTS BY WMF, INC.

tween ally and enemy, and with strict rules of engagement — subjected the Vietnam soldier to unimaginable pressures. Because of inequities in the draft system, the brunt of dangerous service fell upon the young, often the socially and economically disadvantaged. While experiences in combat areas were brutal enough in themselves, their adverse effects were multiplied by the maltreatment received by the veterans upon their return home.

After previous wars, including the Civil War, the nation honored its veterans. For the Vietnam veterans, however, continuing controversy over the war allowed for little psychological support from American society. The hostility of both those who deplored the war and those angered by its frustrating extension was directed against those who fought it: the veterans. To say that there were no welcoming parades is more than an understatement. A telling incident is the story of a Vietnam amputee being taunted with the remark that "it served him right". The result, for Vietnam veterans, is a void. The time taken from their lives, their wounds, and the honorable service they rendered have received little or no acknowledgement from American society.

The purpose of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is to recognize and honor those who served and died. It will provide a symbol of acknowledgement of the courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty of those who were among the nation's finest youth. Whether they served because of their belief in the war policy, their belief in the obligation to answer the call of their country, or their simple acquiescence in a course of events beyond their control, their service was no less honorable than that rendered by Americans in any previous war. Those who served and died embodied values and ideals prized by this nation since its inception. The failure of the nation to honor them only extends the national tragedy of our involvement in Vietnam.

Yet hope can be born from tragedy. As our nation

finds its way in rising above recrimination, as it acknowledges the veterans of Vietnam, and as it gains the courage to mourn those who were lost, it can look to the future with a renewed sense of purpose. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial will stand as a symbol of our nation's appreciation for the sacrifices and loss that resulted from Vietnam. It will express a nation's respect and gratitude.

The memorial will make no political statement regarding the war or its conduct. It will transcend those issues. The hope is that the creation of the memorial will begin a healing process, a reconciliation of the grievous divisions wrought by the war. Through the memorial both supporters and opponents of the war may find a common ground for recognizing the sacrifice, heroism, and loyalty which were also a part of the Vietnam experience. Through such a recognition the nation will resolve its history fully. Then the Vietnam Veterans Memorial may also become a symbol of national unity, a focal point for remembering the war's dead, the veterans, and the lessons learned through a tragic experience.

The leadership of this country has given the Vietnam Veterans Memorial effort overwhelming endorsement. The original resolution proposing the site was "co-sponsored" by all 100 members of the U.S. Senate and 196 members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The sponsors represented all elements of the nation's political spectrum. It included those who represented the most bitter divisions.

The site for the memorial was chosen both for its prominence and for its proximity to the Lincoln Memorial, itself a symbol of reconciliation after the Civil War. The memorial is being financed by public contributions rather than governmental appropriations. This will create an opportunity for individual involvement and for a national expression of sentiment.



National Headquarters • 933 North Kenmore Street Arlington, Virginia 22201 • (703) 524-1137

Incorporated by an Act of Congress

Lt Gen John A. Lejeune Founder

September 10, 1981

Bob Doubek
Secretary and Project Director
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.
1110 Vermont Avenue, NW - Suite 308
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Bob,

This is to express my personal concern, along with that of many, many other members of the Marine Corps League regarding the selected design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to be erected in Washington, D. C. While I personally, and our organization generally, have been quite supportive of the concept, the ultimate selection appears to be quite controversial. Neither I nor any of our members who have discussed this matter profess to be qualified from an architectural standpoint to praise or criticize the final selection, but, there appears to be a general concensus that nothing in the design represents the purpose or the commitment of those who served and survived the Vietnam experience. The particular common sense criticism is based on the fact that none volunteered to serve their country in Vietnam for the express purpose of dying or to ultimately have their name engraved on a tombstone; as represented by the current design of the memorial. Most readily agreed, however, that duty, honor and country were main motivating factors toward their service and which is best represented by the American flag. From an architectural viewpoint, artistic justification for resistance to change of the selection to incorporate the flag or any other modification, has been expressed as "in a monument receding in a town of monuments rising" the inclusion of a patriotic symbol, or any other modification, would detract from the overall design concept.

For the sake of the many non-artists who have served their country under the standard American symbol of duty, honor and country, in every war since our nation was founded, as represented by our flag; I encourage your committee to make every effort to include the flag in a suggested modification to the current design, or to even scrap the current design altogether and reopen the bidding for a selection by a committee comprised of at least several members who have actually served in Vietnam.

Sincerely,

C. L. Kammeier Executive Director

"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"



September 24, 1981

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The LTV Corporation

Edmund T Pratt, Jr

Chairman of the Board

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\*Served in Vietnam

Affiliations noted for purposes of identification only Mr. C.L. Kammeier Executive Director Marine Corps League 933 Kenmore Street Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Cy:

Lloyd N Unsell Executive Vice President Independent Petroleum Association of America I have received your letter of September 10, 1981 expressing your concern with the design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Your letter, while a brief one; raises many issues that are necessarily involved in the creation of any memorial, i.e., in providing a symbol of a feeling or message. I wish to give you my thoughts on these issues, so that you may change your opinion about the design or, if

First, however, I wish to note that there have been many inaccuracies about the memorial published in the press recently. as we might, through letters to the editor, press releases, and other means, we have not been totally successful in setting the record straight. The problem is the regretable habit of many members of the press not to verify independently their information with us before publishing.

The most persistent of these inaccuracies is that the completed memorial allegedly will have no mention of "Vietnam" or the "Vietnam War." I can assure you, however, that it will be appropriately identified for what it is, a memorial to honor and recognize the veterans of Vietnam.

Other members of the fourth estate have attempted to read political messages into the design, usually against U.S. policy in Vietnam, primarily because the memorial is black. In doing so, they appear not to know that many of this nation's proudest monuments to its fighting men, including the Iwo Jima Memorial and the Seabees Memorial in Washington, are of the identical material planned for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, i.e., black granite. Indeed, this material could even be described as the standard, since the South Boston Vietnam Memorial, which was dedicated on September 13th, is also of black granite. I can assure you here as well, that the material for the walls of the memorial was chosen solely for its artistic Gen William C. Westmoreland Ret. effect, rather than to make an detrimental statement about the war former Chief of Staff, U.S. Army effort or the veterans.

attempted Justification

not, at least understand our thinking.

As I understand it, your main concern is that nothing in the design represents the purpose and commitment of the veterans and that, moreover, the design is nothing but a tombstone for those who died. In this regard, I wish to note that the genesis of our idea for the design of the memorial came from the South East Asia Memorial at West Point. There the 1960s classes decided to landscape a small peninsula jutting into a lake and dedicate it as a park to the memory of their comrades who died, rather than to erect a statue or edifice. We adopted the idea of a landscaped solution because we believed that after the turmoil surrounding the war, which more than anything obscured the sacrifices made by the veterans, what was needed was a place, where people could come and without distraction reflect upon and pay homage to those who were most affected by the war: the veterans. With this idea in mind, we initially focused our efforts on finding a prominent site with sufficient space for the type of memorial we had in mind. As you know, we were successful in obtaining Congressional authorization for a two acre site in Constitution Gardens. To overcome the objection of the National Park Service that the design must be decided before the site, we noted that we would design a memorial that would harmonize and be consistent with the surroundings of Constitution Gardens.

When we developed the materials for our design competition, we set forth criteria that the memorial design should be reflective and contemplative in character and in harmony with its site, an integral part of Constitution Gardens. Furthermore, the design was to provide for the inscription of the name of each man and woman who died. While the memorial is to honor all veterans, the names will provide a special recognition for those who died and, in effect, preserve forever the most significant symbol of a man himself, his name. No matter how it met the foregoing criteria, the memorial was to express its purpose, which we set forth in the competition rules as follows:

The purpose of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is to recognize and honor those who served and died. It will provide a symbol of acknowledgement of the courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty of those who were among the nation's finest youth. Whether they served because of their belief in the war policy, their belief in the obligation to answer the call of their country, or their simple acquiescence in a course of events beyond their control, their service was no less honorable than that rendered by Americans in any previous war. Those who served and died embodied values and ideals prized by this nation since its inception. The failure of the nation to honor them only extends the national tragedy of our involvement in Vietnam.

WRONG CLASS OF INDIV.

One thing that we did not do in the competition program was attempt to prescribe any particular type of artistic medium or style, such as figurative or abstract sculpture. Our role was to develop a method by which the design could be chosen rather to decide by ourselves, except for the basic criteria, what the design should be.

Our choice of the jury was probably the most difficult decision that we have made as an organization. We considered various alternatives including having one or more Vietnam veterans per se on it, but in the end decided upon a jury composed entirely of experienced professionals. The purpose of the memorial is not to literally depict the experience and motivation of Vietnam veterans, but to express America's honor and recognition of them. We realized that the important skill of a juror was not so much having an experience or feeling but the ability to interpret how well a particular design expressed that experience or feeling.

There were other reasons for our decision on the jury composition. To evaluate the cost feasibility, buildability, and likelihood of Federal approval, etc., of the vast number of design entries, a juror would need a lot of maturity as well as much experience with taking projects from concept to reality. A factor militating against a Vietnam veteran. Gold Star Mother, military person, etc., being on the jury was that because of the other jury members' empathy for such a person, they might be swayed too greatly by that person's opinion. As we all know, everyone who was in Vietnam had a different experience of it, and the memorial might then become an expression of the experience of one man or a small group. Again, the purpose of the memorial is not to reflect any one experience but rather the honor and recognition of American society.

Although the chosen jurors were too old to have actually served in Vietnam, we carefully interviewed each one to insure that they were supportive of Vietnam veterans and sensitive to the country's need to provide an appropriate symbol of recognition. Some of the jurors were combat veterans, one of World War I. We required them to read an extensive list of books regarding the Vietnam experience, including Jim Webb's Fields of Fire and Phil Caputo's A Rumor of War.

The jury's choice of the winning design received the unanimous acceptance of our board, staff and volunteer design advisors, and all but one of us served in Vietnam. The strongest supporters were two of the combat veterans. Jan Scruggs, as you know, is the president and founder of the VVMF, and John Woods is a permanently disabled veteran and a structural engineer design professional. If we had had any Vietnam veteran on the jury, it would have been Jan.

The memorial is not just the structure, but is the entire park area surrounding it. It meets the criteria of being a reflective and contemplative place in harmony with its surroundings. It makes a powerful statement that this society pays tribute to Vietnam veterans.

While it does not, as you note, have any literal depiction of the purpose and motivation of those who served, the thoughtful visitor will contemplate those traits. One cannot see 57,692 names etched in 400 feet of granite without doing so. Within the parameters of the design a visitor is free to interpret its symbolism in his own way. Some have seen in the walls the chevron of the PFC, the one who bore the brunt of fighting in the war; others have seen a pair of joined hands, in which our country is finally uniting after a decisive period or a pair of out stretched arms embracing and reaching out to Vietnam veterans.

America does not build memorials on its national Mall to any but its best, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is taking its place literally in the shadow of the Washington Monument. That monument, while having no literal expression of the courage, honesty, and leadership of George Washington, more than anything else symbolizes our country's reverence of him.

Regarding any changes to the chosen design, the VVMF would be very reluctant to make any because of our belief that its strength and power derive from its very simplicity. We are now working with the designer to iron out all the details, such as the exact placement of the names and the location and content of the identifying inscription.

Cy, I've rambled for quite a bit, but I hope that I've given you some insight into the background philosophy for the memorial and why we think the design is very appropriate. The main point I would like to leave you with is that, again, the purpose of the memorial is not necessary to depict the purpose and motivation of the veterans but rather to express American society's honor and recognition of them. Other forms of expression, such as Jim Webb's novel, are the more approporate way to express what the veterans experienced and how they were motivated. No memorial, whatever its design, could by itself set the record straight regarding the way Vietnam veterans have been maligned. The memorial as designed, however, will be a powerful symbol of America's honor and recognition, and a significant component of bringing Vietnam veterans home.

We would be happy to discuss the design in person with you or any members of the League. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

Robert W. Doubek Project Director

SPECIFIC ROENT OF CORP. .. HIS EXCEPT REP. OF THEIR VIEWS

RWD/crc

# Forgotten Veterans of 'That Peculiar War'

Just as the Vietnam war was unique in the way that it was waged-and lost-so that conflict has subjected our youngest-ever corps of war veterans to pressures unparalleled in American military history. The victory parades and hero status awarded to previous generations of military returnees were simply not present. The national turmoil surrounding the war made one's status as a Vietnam veteran a dubious distinction at best.

Probably no aspect of the war has been more explotted, misunderstood and officially neglected

Mr. Scruggs, is a disabled veteran of the Vict-

than the readjustment problems of Vietnam returnees. In the past two years the psychological and academic communities have finally started taking an interest in the effects of having participated in that conflict. We are seeing research indicating that serious and prolonged adjustment problems exist for many Vietnam veterans.

My personal interest in this topic is rooted in my own experience. When I was a nalve teenager, a profound sense of duty compelled me to serve my country during time of war. After my tour, the wounds and medals I received as an infantryman in Vietnam became slowly transformed into reminders of my part in a cruel and meaningless conflict. My naive acceptance of America as a great and noble land gave way to more critical thinking as my conventional beliefs, attitudes and values were shaken by the war. I sometimes felf a deep bitterness toward this country as I reflected back to a quiet Sunday in 1970, when two very special friends of mine; a young black and a Jewish draftee, suddenly by dismembered and motionless in the dirt of Vietnam.

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During graduate training in counseling psychology at American University, I imitated a long and expensive social psychological investigation of the war's affects upon college veterans. A question naire was designed to test the major hypotheses advanced by the scant literature available on this neglected topic. A prominent psychology professor, Dr. Alian Berman, provided excellent professional guidance. Questiannaires were given to fait.
Vietnam veleram at local universities. Our 223 reprior yielded some insportant lindings about the psychological aftermath of that peculiar war.

The research found that men who served in units with a casualty rate of more than 25 per cent were statistically higher in pulltical alienation. These veterans were also II thous more likely to report drouming of Vietnam combat than those who served in units with no casualties. Many evidesired low sulf-esteem. Odly half of the sample aid not feel that Vietnam duty had caused them psychological problems. Only one of the black somilar viterans did not feel that Vietnam duty had hurt like psychologically, flome veterans who had psychological problems from the war indirated a refurtance to meek bely from the Veterans Administration (higher referance had a 20 per cent rate of separations and divorce The dry statistics of the new lat accepts on revented a and legarly restaults. ing from a war that this country is trying to forget

In my present futile presch for federal emplay



By Stuart Leads for The Washington Post

ment, I recently spoke with a civil service counse-for who has talked with several young men who refuse their five-point preferences rather than bear the stigma of being known as Vietnam veterans One of the biggest and longest running jokes in this town is the special 16 joint preference for disabled Vietnam veterans, Ronald Drach, employment director for the Disabled American Veterans and himself an amputee from Victimin combat. states that it is generally not enforced and that cases calst where if has been intentionally circumvented by federal agencies. Most of the federal emplayers who have tried to help me and other the ablad Vietnam veterate gain employment are also frustrated about this situation. The Department of Labor, which has been given the task of entorcing effirmative ection programs for thring Vornain: era veterana, acta a miserablo example for privata industry, Victoria eru swierung constitute less than I per cout of the department's total work force, one of the lowest for any major federal agency.

March unemployment statutics revealed that the unemployment rate for the youngest age group of Vietnamera veterans has increased one percent age point, to 17.2 per cent. However, the unemployment rate for the same age group of male non-veterans has decreased one point to 104 per cent.

My findings are really not surprising. Several years back some leading psychiatists, including Dr. Peter Bourne and Yale's Dr. Robert J. Lifton, warned that the Vietnam conflict would have serious, delayed consequences for many who served there. The very nature of this odd war-the lack of psychological justification for the soldier engaged in it, and society's indifference upon his returnperhaps made this inevitable.

It is, of course, not recent news that war has adverse effects on the human psyche. We have always known that. What is new, however, is that this country has never before given veterans the shoddy treatment that has been bestowed upon those who served in Victnam. Many who volunteered or allowed themselves to be drafted did so with vague assurances of future educational benefits and employment. They returned to find that the GI Bill was inadequate and that many jobs were filled by those who had purposely avoided their military obligation.

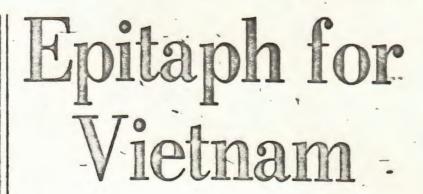
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The new administration has taken some measures to provide assistance, however belatedly, to those who became the victims of this nation's for-eign-policy mistakes. It is not yet clear how far President Carter is willing to go to alleviate the appalling unemployment rate for veterans. He has, however, demonstrated his wisdom in the appointment of an energetic Vietnam returnee, Max Cleland, as the new chief of the Veterans Administration. Some healthy changes are now taking place to make the VA's services more in keeping with the needs of all veterans. Cleland wants to reverse his agency's poor retention rate for physicians. He wants to expand the drug- and alcohol-treatment facilities. Furthermore, he recognizes the need for the Veterans Administration to provide readjustment counseling, the lack of which has exacer-

bated the problems of many Vietnam veterans. My research will soon be reviewed by the Senate and House committees on veterans' affairs. If nothing comes of that, the offert will be buried away in some açademic journal. But my findings, as well as those of other researchers, highlight some very real problems that will not go away, for all the haste with which this county may seek to sweep a ahameful war under the rug.

There is a major issue here for this country to resolve, for the indifference and lack of compassion that the veterans have received is, to a large degree, a reflection of our lack of a national reconcilintion after Vietnam. The fundamental challenge. should now be to meet the very real needs of this group as a major step toward America's final recovery from that war The power - and the responsibility-to make good on the national obligation to Vietnam-cra veterans ultimately rests with the President and the Congress. No efforts can provide compensation of course to the Americans who made the ultimate sa ciffic in Vietnam For them, perhaps, a national monument is in order to remind an ungrateful nation of what it has done to IN MINE S

SNO EFFORTS CAN PROVIDE COMPENSATION, OF COURSE, TO THE AMERICANS WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE IN VIETNAM. FOR THEM, PERHAPS, A WATTONAC MONUMENT IS IN ORDER TO REMIND AN UNGLATEFUL WATTON OF WHAT IT HAS DONE TO



# Memorial Design Is Selected

By Henry Allen

For the dead whom few wanted to remember after a war few could forget, a woman who was 4 years old when the first bodies came home has designed a national memorial to be built on the Mall.

Maya Ying Lin, who is 21 and a Yale undergraduate architecture student, was picked out of 1,420 entrants as winner of a competition sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

"I liked my idea but I-knew it was never going to be chosen — it was too different, too strange," said Lin, whose parents emigrated from China in 1948 and teach at Ohio University.

The memorial design shows two polished black granite walls, each 200 feet long. They meet to form an oblique triangle. Inside the triangle the ground falls away at a fivedegree slope until it reaches the apex. There, the walls will be 10 feet high. They will be inscribed with the names of the 57,692 Americans killed in Vietnam between 1963 and 1973. The names, in letters 3/4 of an inch high, will be listed in chronological order of death.

Said Lin: "These names, seemingly infinite in number. convey the sense of overwhelming numbers, while unifying those individuals into a whole. For this memorial is not meant as a memorial to the individual, but rather as a me-

See MEMORIAL, F3, Col. 1

#### MEMORIAL, From F1

morial to the men and women who died during the war, a whole.

Her design does not mention the war itself, or the Republic of South Vietnam; only the names of the dead.

Washington architect Paul D. Spreiregen, who served as a professional adviser to the memorial fund, quoted one of the jurors as saving: "In a city of white memorials rising, this will be a dark memorial receding." He said the jury, composed of two architects, two landscape architects, three sculptors and an architectural editor, had decided on a minimalist design because people can bring to it whatever they want."

Said Lin: "The design sort of popped into my head. I wanted some sort of journey into the earth."

She submitted it as part of course work in funerary architecture at Yale.. Both she and her professor entered the contest. The professor gave her a B in the course. She won the \$20,000 first prize.

Asked for her memories of the war, she said: "It didn't enter my world. I remember there were riots, and my parents would never let me out of the house when there were riots. Later on, the realization of the youth of the people involved came to me — that they'd been killed in the war or while protesting."

Asked about the fact that neither the war nor the country it was fought in is mentioned in the design, Robert Doubek, project director, said: "Does Washington's name appear on the Washington monument? You would have to be very oblivious to reality to not know where they died."

Doubek said that "one of the submitted designs had a big peace sign on top of it, but there were very few with political messages."

With 1,420 entries, requiring an estimated 80 man-years of work, this was the biggest design competition in the history of this country, Doubek said. "I was out at the warehouse in Capitol Heights on March 31, the deadline. We got 150 entries between 5 p.m. and midnight. With five minutes to go, there was one woman who had her design laid out in the parking lot, filling in the return address."

The memorial is the brainchild of a Vietnam veteran named Jan Scruggs. At the prize announcement, he said: "In 1970 I was a teen-ager with an Army infantry company. By the end of my tour, half my company had been killed or wounded. In 1976 I presented testimony to Congress about the Vietnam veterans - their lowered self-esteem, marital difficulties and other problems. In 1979 I had the idea for the memorial, for something the government couldn't adequately provide — recognition. It's not a memorial to honor the war but the sacrifice of the Vietnam veterans."

Scruggs went to Sen. Charles Mathias (R-Md.), who introduced a bill to give the memorial a site. Sen. John Warner (R-Va.) helped raise seed money for a national fund-raising transpaign by holding a fund-raising breakfast at his home.

So far, the fund has raised \$1.2 million and has set Veterans Day (Nov. 11) 1982 as the date they hope to unveil the memorial, which will be in the Constitution Gardens section of the Mall, near the Lincoln Memorial.

The second-place winner, awarded \$10,000, was a team headed by architect Marvin Krosinsky, of Island Park, N.Y., and the third prize of \$5,000 was won by an-Alexandria team headed by landscape architect Joseph E. Brown. All of the entries will be on display on May 9 at Hangar No. 3 at Andrews Air Force Base.

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Dec. 2, 1981 & autist on committee Vietuom Dulg ht Brutchen Ross Perot \$160,000 Menona "I Lett like I've ben used Re- entered the tray or a background - resigned last week W.66 people will be wred Binher Forals Galo

Alterrate designs

Legal Avery 3, Political);

V Flut Ah Legion

Public Preserve the only way



#### For Further Information

Pat Pellerin or George 202/393-1300

COL.

EXECUTIVE

of the Vietnam Veterans
U.S. Marine Corps serving
the Caribbean and in Viet

Prior to joining the of the Personnel Procurem quarters in Washington. officer, Military Assista Office (1969); Fire Suppo Vietnam (1968-69) and variat bases and stations in

A native of Tenafly, degree in psychology from masters degree in counsel Col. Schaet was awarded a

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REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS

Vietnam Veterans

Memorial

To:

Officer-in-charge **Appointments Center** Room 060, OEOB

Please a	admit the following appointments on	Wednesday,	Decemb	per	2, 1	981
for	Morton Blackwell	of	Office	of	Public	Liaison
	(NAME OF PERSON TO BE VISITE	)	(AGENCY)			

MESSING, ANDREW CARHART, TOM JORDAN, HARRIS HALLORAN, BERNIE MILLHORN, WILLIAM WEBB, JIM COPOLOS, MILT BLEKKEN, ERIK JACKSON, CHARLES (Chuck) JOHNSON, DICK KAMMEIER, CY Charfield, Bill

#### **MEETING LOCATION**

Building	OEOB	Requested by	Blackwell				
Room No	191	Room No. 191	Telephone	2657			
Time of Meeting	2 PM	Date of request	December 2,	1981			

Additions and/or changes made by telephone should be limited to three (3) names or less.

APPOINTMENTS CENTER: SIG/OEOB - 395-6046 or WHITE HOUSE - 456-6742



Morton

file

August 7, 1981

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\*Served in Vietnam

of the U.S.

Affiliations noted for purposes of identification only

Mrs. Elizabeth Dole
Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Dole:

It was a great pleasure to attend the White House Briefing.

I was very pleased to see that this Administration is so open about the policies being implemented to help our economy recover and to provide services to veterans.

Sincerely,

President

Jan C. Scruggs

My best regards,

JCS/crc

STAFF

Jan Craig Scruggs\* President Col. Donald E. Schaet, USMC, Ret.\* Executive Vice President Robert W. Doubek, Esq.\* Project Director/Secretary Sandie Fauriol Campaign Director

AUG TO THE

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.
1110 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 308, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 659-2490



# a personal note from JAN SCRUGGS, President VVMF

When I formed VVMF in 1979, I had an impossible dream. I wanted to erect a structure memorializing those who served so nobly in Vietnam; so many thousands who had been all but forgotten.

It seemed an impossible dream . . . there was, at first, very little interest in my project. But I was determined, and I persisted. Prior to Vietnam, every American who had ever served his country in uniform had been honored. Vietnam veterans deserved that much, and probably more. Two years have passed. Congress has donated national parkland.

Thousands of architects, designers and artists submitted entries in the design competition. And countless thousands of citizens — like you — have given generously to help turn my dream into a reality.

We're close now . . . ready to begin construction. And not much more than a year from now, THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL will be dedicated. A permanent structure and park setting to be enjoyed by all Americans. But only if you and other Americans help once again.

Please, you've supported us before . . . and your help is needed again. Because you believe in America, its institutions and traditions, send your donation to VVMF today. Send \$25, \$50, \$100, or more. But send it NOW. We still need many personal donations to help in the construction of the memorial. Millions of dollars that must come from folks like you. Today, while America is prosperous and peaceful, there can be no better expression of gratitude for being a citizen of this remarkable country than a generous contribution which supports this project.

When you donate to VVMF, you are saying, "I'm thankful for being an American."

Send your donation today! Thank you, with all my heart.

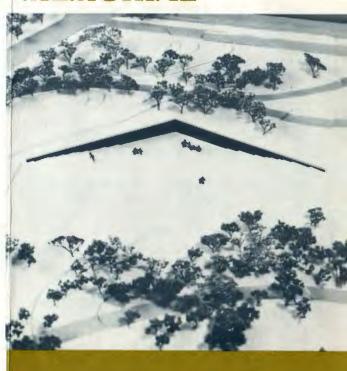
Jan C. Scruggs



Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.
1110 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 308, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202)659-2490

Here it is...,

# THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL



-- Now All Americans Who Served and Sacrificed Will Be Remembered! Finally ...

the dream will soon become a reality! The last chapter is being played . . . hopefully, on Weterans Day 1982, we will give the men and women who served in the Vietnam war the honor they should have received years ago.

All of us at VVMF have worked long and hard for this day. But the achievement is well worth our efforts because it means that the American people have said thank you. We are building this memorial together. That is exciting . . . and YOU helped make it possible.

57,692 American men and women gave their lives in service to our great country. Hundreds of thousands more came home — not to a thankful nation but to a homeland torn apart and embittered by our involvement.

Those who served so honorably deserved the gratitude of their countrymen. That is why VVMF was formed . . . to help America's Vietnam veterans receive their rightful recognition.

THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL will be two acres of national parkland in Washington, D.C., containing the winning design. The setting is perfect — green lawns, grand trees and within sight of the Lincoln Memorial. It's a fitting place to honor the living and pay lasting tribute to our war dead.

The design consists of two 210' highly polished, black granite walls, rising out of the earth and gently sloping into it to meet at an oblique angle.

It will be imposing but not overpowering, an inspiring structure ". . . a quiet place, meant for personal reflection and private reckoning."

The names of all 57,692 servicemen and women who lost their lives will be inscribed on the memorial's walls.

Yes, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a dream that we have both worked so hard to achieve. But our work is not yet done. Now working drawings of the design must be developed and construction begun as soon as possible.

# IT'S GOING TO TAKE MANY MORE DOLLARS TO BUILD THE MEMORIAL...TO MAKE THIS DREAM A REALITY!

Dedication of the memorial is scheduled for Veterans Day 1982. But we need your help again.

Here's why . . .

We need to raise a total of about \$7 million. Already nearly 100,000 patriotic and caring Americans like you have contributed to us so far. However, we have a long way to go to meet our goal, and we must do so within the next several months. And every penny must come from private citizens like you! Won't you please help us again? Send your donation of \$25, \$50, \$100 — more, if you can afford it.

We know that there are many worthy causes to which you could donate your money, but we believe that building this memorial should be at the top of the list. Please mail your contribution today. Do it for all those who came home to indifference. And especially for those who never came home at all.

## Introducing ...

#### MAYA YING LIN

# — The Winner of the VVMF Design Competition

As one of nearly 100,000 donors who have enthusiastically supported the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, I'm sure you're aware of the competition which VVMF sponsored during the past year in an attempt to find the best design for a memorial to America's Vietnam veterans.

The competition is now over. Our distinguished jury reviewed the efforts of more than 1,400 participants, and selected a winner in early May 1981.

We'd like to introduce her to you now . . .

Meet Miss Maya Ying Lin . . . FIRST PRIZE WINNER IN THE VVMF NATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION.

Miss Lin is a 1981 graduate of Yale University, taking her degree in Architecture. Her winning design was simple, yet magnificent, and upon completion, it will provide all Americans with "a quiet place for personal reflection and private reckoning."



We are overjoyed at the way so many responded to the competition . . . at the tremendous interest shared by all citizens . . . and at the stirring tribute Miss Lin's memorial will, at last, pay to those who served our country so nobly.

Our goal is to have the completed memorial dedicated on Veterans Day 1982. It is a day you and all of us here at VVMF will welcome with great pride and satisfaction. We continue to make tremendous progress toward building this lasting tribute to our Vietnam veterans—and all because of the generosity of proud Americans like you!



July 20, 1981

#### DIRECTORS

Robert H. Frank, CPA Treasurer George W. Mayo, Jr., Esq.\* John P. Wheeler III, Esq.\*

Mr. Morton Blackwell The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Morton,

Jan Craig Scruggs\* President Col. Donald E. Schaet, USMC, Ret.\* **Executive Vice President** Robert W Doubek Fso \* Project Director/Secretary Sandie Fauriol Campaign Director

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\*Served in Vietnam

Affiliations noted for purposes of identification only

Let me congratulate you on the very fine event at the

White House last Friday. I am pleased to see that the present administration is so open about their policies and know that everyone present found the experience to be very enlightening.

I was quite impressed with the President's very sincere remarks expressing his feeling toward Vietnam veterans. Vietnam veterans are indeed fortunate to have the President's leadership in the White House.

Again, thank you for the invitation and for the fine briefing. I hope to see you again soon.

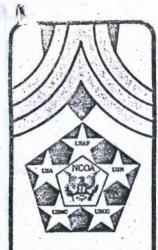
My highest regard.

Sincerely yours,

Jan C. Scruggs

President

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. 1110 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 308, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 659-2490



"STRENGTH IN UNITY"

Normand M. Gonsauls President

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# Non Commissioned Officers Association

of the United States of America

110 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Suite 304, Box 43 Washington, D.C. 20002

C.A. "MACK" McKINNEY SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

June 23, 1981

Mr. Jan Craig Scruggs President Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. P.O. Box 37240 Washington, D.C. 20013

Dear Mr. Scruggs:

I have recently returned from the Association's 20th annual International Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. While there, the International Board of Directors met and discussed the Fund and the design chosen to honor our Vietnam veterans.

NCOA is delighted that it can lend its name to the Fund as a sponsoring organization. The majority of its membership, some 250,000 strong, are Vietnam veterans. They are devotedly favorable to having a memorial erected and dedicated to the service their group gave to God, Country and cause.

In this respect, NCOA salutes the efforts of you and many others who work diligently to raise the necessary funds to erect that memorial. Your dedication to your fellow Vietnam veterans is worthy of the highest recognition. You are to be commended for accomplishing a difficult task.

Still, I would be remiss in not advising you, the officers and directors of the fund that the Association is sadly disappointed with the design of the memorial. It is the belief of the Association's directors that Vietnam veterans, living and dead, deserve better than the one chosen.

The memorial should be one of serenity— proud serenity and not a tomb. Too many Americans have chosen to bury the memory of that disastrous conflict. Such a memorial as the one chosen is symbolic of that point of view.

Instead, the memorial should stand tall announcing to one and all that our Vietnam veterans saw their duty and they accomplished it with pride and honor.

With every good wish for the future, I am,

Sincerely,

C.A. "Mack" McKinney

Chairman, International Board of Directors



#### NATIONAL CAPITAL OFFICE

## NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STRENGTH IN UNITY

110 Maryland Ave., N.E., Suite 304 Box 43 Washington, D.C. 20002

Telephone (202) 546-7891 546-7892

December 2, 1981

The Honorable Morris K. Udall Chairman Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs 1234 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In February of next year construction will begin on a memorial "... in honor and recognition of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam War." The memorial, authorized by public law 96-297 (approved July 1, 1980) will be located on a two acre site in Constitution Gardens between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. This truly remarkable project is being funded through private donations to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., (VVMF) a private nonprofit corporation established by a group of Vietnam veterans interested in recognizing those who served. The Non Commissioned Officers Association is honored to be among the sponsoring organizations of the Fund.

We are, however, quite concerned about many recent news reports, letters and articles suggesting an undercurrent of dissatisfaction among veterans over the design of the memorial. Certainly any project of this type will have its detractors but there is something unique about the critics of this project. They are respected members of the veterans community, organizations that represent veterans, and veterans who served during the Vietnam period.

Detractors of the memorial have alleged that the design does not fulfill the congressional mandate because it honors only those who died in Vietnam. Others object to other characteristics of the design such as its being subterraneous, the selection of black marble instead of white, the lack of a flag, the chronological listing of names versus alphabetical listing, etc. More serious allegations have been lodged by others who insist that there has been impropriety in the selection and approval of the design. One consistency in all the criticism is that it is directed toward the selected design and not the concept or location of the memorial.



Hon. Udall Dec. 2, 1981 Page 2

NCOA strongly supports the construction of a Vietnam veterans memorial but as a sponsoring organization we believe it is our responsibility to "clear the air." The best way to do this is to provide all parties the opportunity to express their concerns to an impartial body capable of determining whether the memorial satisfies the congressional mandate and whether the VVMF acted responsibly in selecting the design. Without such a forum, the problem can only fester.

Therefore, we ask you as chairman of the committee with oversight authority on the legislation to conduct a public hearing at your earliest convenience.

Looking forward to your positive response to our request, I am,

Sincerely,

Richard W. Johnson

National Legislative Director

cc: Jan Scruggs, VVMF

-Morton Blackwell, The White House

Hon. Alan Simpson Hon. G.V. Montgomery

#### PHILIP M. CRANE

MEMBER OF CONGRESS 12TH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
202/225-3711

DAVID J. ALLEN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

SUITE 101
1450 SOUTH NEW WILKE ROAD
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60005
312/394-0790

## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

DRAFT

Dear Colleague,

Some time ago, we all thought that we had finally taken action that would honor those who served in the Vietnam war. No matter what our individual attitudes toward that conflict may have been, we agreed that those who rendered faithful service to this nation during that trying time should be honored and recognized for their selfless, patriotic actions. Accordingly, we passed Public Law 96-297, which is attached at 74. Therein, we said that

"the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund....is authorized to establish a memorial on public grounds....in honor and recognition of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam war."

In their application of this Congressional license, however, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund seems to have somewhat twisted things. In the design competition booklet which was distributed to all registered competitors before any designs had been submitted, the groundrules of the competition were laid out. Under a section of that booklet entitled "The Purpose and Philosophy of the Memorial", the following paragraph (attached at "B") appears on page 5:

The purpose of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is to recognize and honor those who served and died. It will provide a symbol of acknowledgement of the courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty of those who were among the nation's finest youth. Whether they served because of their belief in the war policy, their belief in the obligation to answer the call of their country, or their simple acquiescence in a course of events beyond their control, their service was no less honorable than that rendered by Americans in any previous war. Those who served and died embodied values and ideals prized by this nation since its inception. The failure of the nation to honor them only extends the tragedy of our involvement in Vietnam." (emphasis added)

The subjects and objects of all the sentences in the above paragraph are "those who served and died", and "they", "them", and "those" - which pronouns can only mean "those who served and died" - no other definition is possible. In other words, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund sought and selected a design that would be built as a Memorial to the dead.

This is confirmed by the text of a letter sent by the Vietnam Veterans
Memorial Fund to the Marine Corps League on 18 September, 1981 (attached at"C"): On page 2 of that letter appears the following:

"No matter how it met the foregoing criteria, the memorial was to express its purpose, which we set forth in the competition rules as follows:"

-and then follows the above-quoted paragraph. While it is true that the 57,000 who died are among those who are the proposed soliects of this memorial, there are also 2 1/2 million others who returned to this country after faithful service in Vietnam and who we here sought to honor.

How did such an obvious variation on the intentions of Congress occur? Some light may be shed on that question by the last two lines of an editorial written by Jan Scruggs, now President of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, which was published in the Washington Post on 25 May 1977 (attached at "D"):

"No efforts can provide compensation, of course, to the Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. For them, perhaps, a national monument is in order, to remind an ungrateful nation of what it has done to its sons."

The result of the design competition for a memorial to the dead was a black wall sunk ten feet below pround on which the names of the dead will be carved. The widow of a Marine who died in Vietnam has compared it to the oven mouths at Dachau and feels it is a grisley reminder of something ugly and shameful in America's past. A Navy Captain who was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for eight years feels that it will be a constant reminder to him of the daily litany he heard from his guards that described him as the "blackest of all criminals". Clearly, this is not what Congress intended when it authorized a memorial "in honor and recognition of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam war." We are proud of their selfless sacrifice for America, and we must have a Memorial that clearly shows that. Please join me in stepping in to put this effort back on the Congressionally-mandated path of honor and recognition.

If you are interested in joining this effort, or want more information, contact Harris Jordan of my staff on x-53711.

Sincerely,

Philip M. Crane, M.C.

DRAFT

#### FACT SHEET

#### VIETNAM VETERANS' MEMORIAL

#### 1. WHAT:

Memorial to Vietnam War Veterans to be constructed on the Mall. Authorization for use of that land is granted by Congress in S.J. Res. 119 (PL 96-297).

-Resolution authorizes a memorial "in honor and recognition of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in Vietnam."

who served in Vietnam. Concept endorsed by a cast of 1000s including Bob Hope (who signed the letter soliciting initial funds), and numerous great/notable Americans. Funding will be exclusively private--need \$7 million--have raised @ \$2.5 million.

#### 2. THE CURRENT DESIGN:

A 400 foot long black wall in the shape of an open "V", cut 10 feet below the surface of the Mall, and bearing the names of the 57,000-odd war dead, listed by date of death, not alphabetically. A pit with a black wall below ground level.

#### 3. WHY IT'S UNACCEPTABLE:

- -What memorial to Americans who served their country, regardless of the domestic political climate at the time is below ground level, in a pit?
- -Is this memorial representative of the kind of "honor and recognition" the Congress had in mind when it authorized the land use?
- -Shouldn't a monument to those 2.7 million Americans who served in Vietnam be immediately recognizable to future generations as representing their valor, heroism, devotion to duty and fidelity to country? What will they think when viewing the travesty proposed?
- -Black is the universal color of dishonor and shame; associated with death.
- -Design competition weighted in favor of memorial honoring war dead, not all who served.
- -9 judges none of whom was a Vietnam veteran only veteran from WWI Italian Army.

#### 4. THE MEMORIAL SHOULD:

- -Be at or above ground level.
- -Be white.
- -Be constructed with American materials by American labor. (Black granite has been ordered from India.)
- -Have the American flag flown over it.
- -Be engraved with the words of the authorizing legislation "... in honor and recognition..." etc. (VVMF design includes this.)
- -Have the names of the 57,000-odd dead, which will appear on the stone, arranged in alphabetical order.

Viet. Vet of Memorial France

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

AGENDA

VETERAN AFFAIRS WORKING GROUP

October 14, 1981

3 PM

- 1. VETERANS DAY Nov. 11
  - Recap Veterans Day Activities in each Department and Agency
  - Concerns for White House focus
- 2. VIETNAM MEMORIAL

# Commission Rejects Veteran's Protest, Reapproves Vietnam Memorial Design

A Vietnam War veteran who is critical of the design for a memorial to his fallen comrades failed yesterday to convince the U.S. Fine Arts Commission that it should reject the design and start anew.

Tom Carhart of McLean, a West Point graduate twice wounded in Vietnam, told the commission that the black granite design by Maya Ying Lin, a 21-year-old Yale University architecture student, would be a "shameful degrading ditch — a black gash of sorrow" in West Potomac Park, near the Lincoln Memorial.

Carhart argued that Lin's design; chosen from 1,420 entries in May by an eight-member jury, chiefly reflected home-front opposition to the war and failed to recognize sacrifices by those who died in the conflict. Carhart told the commission he was one of the strongest initial supporters of the memorial but was affronted by Lin's design for a simple, angled bulkhead largely below ground level.

Commission members listened politicly, then reaffirmed the decision they made in July to approve the design in concept. The Lin design, said commission chairman J. Carter Brown Jr., reflects "an extraordinary sense of dignity and nobility... precisely because of its simplicity." The commission yesterday approved the selection of granite to be quarried either in Sweden or India, the only places where stone of appropriate quality is said to be located.

Jan C. Scruggs, founder and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, defended the design and attributed Carhart's opposition

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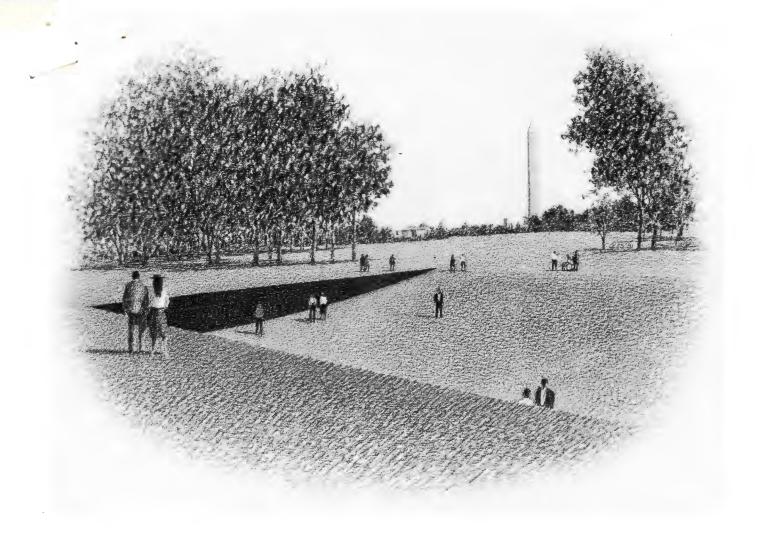
October 4, 1981 For Briefing, phone: Memorial Fund 202-659-2490 Points on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial 1. The Design concept has unanimous approval of all review agencies: Fine Arts Commission, National Capital Planning Commission and the Department of the Interior. 2. Soil sampling, stone selection, and construction engineering are under way. 3. Completion and dedication: Veterans Day, November 11, 1982! 4. Fund raising is ahead of schedule and highly successful. 5. Funding, construction, and work of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is almost wholly by private donation and volunteers. Most volunteers are Vietnam veterans, their families, and the families of those who gave their lives. 6. The design is horizontal and strong-- over 400 feet long. The architecture critic of Time Magazine and the Washington Post, for example, says it is superb and ranks with "the Eiffel tower." The same endorsement was made by the Washington Star and the New York Times.

7. The Memorial has an inscription committing it to the members of the American armed forces who served their country and gave their lives for their country in the Vietnam War.

8. Because of the size and sweep of the design, and its location near the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, the best (really the only) way to see and consider the design is through the brief color slide presentation offered by the Memorial Fund (20 minutes).

This briefing allows you to "see" and "feel" the Memorial as it will actually appear and feel to the visitor at the finished site.

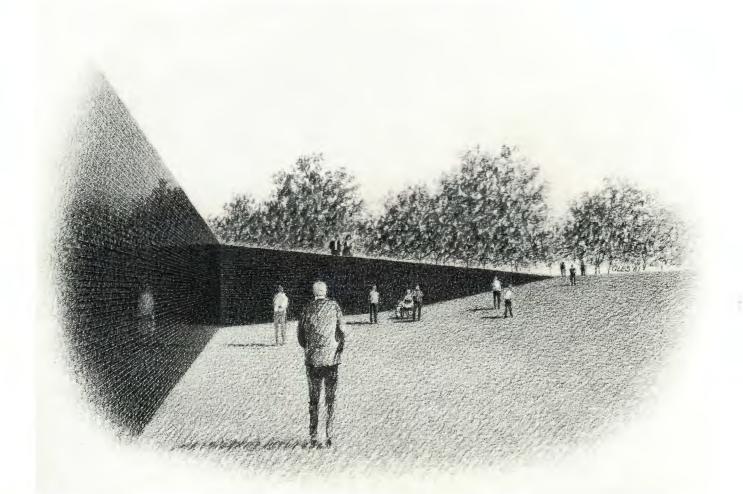
- 9. In the briefing several things become apparent: all the names of the war killed in action are there and legible. This is important, and moving. And one sees that the design does not appear to be "dug in" -- it in fact appears to the visitor as "ten feet tall" and makes the Vietnam veteran who visits-- or the parents or widows or children-feel "ten feet tall." This becomes plain in the briefing because the scale and sweep of the design become apparent-- over 400 feet long on a two acre site! This is hard to see in a sketch or picture.
- 10. The selection of black granite is traditional. See South Boston Vietnam Memorial, and Iwo Jima and Seabees Memorials.
- 11. The designer's parents fled the Red takeover of China in 1949 and settled in America. She was born in Ohio.
- 12. The senior member of the renowned and carefully selected design jury is a combat veteran who has a deep love for the Vietnam Veteran.
- 13. The most important factor of all is perspective: what is being done, after all. What is being done is to place in a graceful way the names of all our KIA's in the Vietnam War in a hallowed place, and to affirm the integrity of all who served. Widows, the children, parents, and the squad mates in thousands of letters say, "At last!", and "Thank you!"
- 14. The war years were angry years, and inevitably, the Memorial draws some anger.
- 15. This is an effort of American volunteers. We will finish on time, on target, and on budget!



## **VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL**

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.
1110 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 308, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202)659-2490







September 15, 1981

DIRECTORS

Robert II. Frank, CPA Treasurer George W. Mayo, Ir. Esq.<sup>5</sup> John P. Whi eler III. Esq.<sup>5</sup>

#### STAFF

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Author Tields of Line
Gen William C Westmoreland Ref\*

"Served in Vietnam

National Laboratesign

Michael L Konnick

Altifiations noted for purposes of identification only

Miss Priscilla Buckley Managing Editor The National Review 150 E. 35th St. New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Miss Buckley:

You are free not to like the design for the Annual Hallow of Americal Vietnam Veterans Memorial, as outlined in your editorial on September 18th, but you should at least have correct facts before putting the project down. First of all, Maya Lin, the young designer of the memorial, has never publicly expressed either support or opposition to U.S. involvement in Vietnam. She has, however, expressed sincere support and compassion for the men and women who served and died. The memorial is not intended, nor was it designed, to make a political statement about the war. It purpose is to honor and recognize the war's veterans and dead for their honorable service and sacrifice.

Secondly, you represent that the memorial will be "surrounded by contoured mounds of earth", but the design calls for nothing of the kind. Furthermore, the memorial will be appropriately identified as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Finally, the competition had 1421 entries, not 14,000.

Any "clear political message" in the design is solely in the eyes of the beholder. You find one in the fact that the memorial's walls will be black. So are the Iwo. Jima Memorial and the Seabees Memorial. What political message do you find in them? Who says that the mode of listing the names makes them like traffic accident victims? Just you and the New Republic. Indeed, an alphabetical listing would do that, not the chronological one, which integrates the names into the entire experience of the war.

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Miss Priscilla Buckley September 15, 1981 Page Two

The memorial will extend over 400 feet in length and occupy almost two acres on one of the most prominent sites in the city. It will be invisible only to those who don't wish to acknowledge Vietnam veterans. You see the "peace sign" in the wide "V" shape formed by its walls. More astute observers see the chevron of the PFC, the one who bore the brunt of the fighting in the war.

Again, you're free not to like the design, but don't go setting up straw men in order to knock it down. The effort for the memorial was initiated from scratch and is being directed by Vietnam veterans to insure that our comrades who served and died finally receive their due acknowledgement from American society—an end that neither the government nor anyone else was apparantly willing or able to accomplish. All costs of design and construction are being financed by the VVMF with funds raised through private contributions.

Your inaccurate and misleading broadside has done a grave injustice to the effort. Enclosed is an artist's rendering of the memorial. Those wishing to make contributions can send them to the VVMF, P.O. Box 37240, Washington, D. C. 20013. The effort deserves the support of all caring Americans, regardless of how they felt about the war.

Robert W. Doubek

Project Director

RWD:cds Enclosure



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Sandie Fautiol Campaign Director

Dear Fellow American:

I'm writing you today not as an entertainer, but as a fellow American who has something very important to share ... I'm offering you the opportunity to take an active part in a project that is long overdue.

It has been more than eight years since America ended its involvement in the Vietnam war -- the longest, and certainly the most controversial, war in our nation's history.



None of us can forget that this war provoked bitter debate here at home -- dividing generations and families, and severing friendships.

The impact of that war has changed forever the lives of many Americans and, most of all, it has changed the lives of the more than 2½ million Americans who served in it.

The war subjected these young Americans to unparalleled pressures. Moreover, the animosity and bitterness that the war caused created an atmosphere that in many cases denied the returning veterans the heroes' welcome they still so rightly deserve.

As a result, many of these veterans are left with the feeling that their sacrifice was in vain and that they are the forgotten victims of an unpopular war.

You see, some were volunteers and some were draftees, but most of them didn't ask to go and fight. Yet, when their country called, they served because they were needed.

Now, it's important for us to take the time to remember. remember the 57,692 who died, the 300,000 wounded, and the 100,000 handicapped or seriously disabled.

And that is why I'm writing to you today. Because I know that every loyal American will want to take part with me in this tribute.

Some time ago, a group of Vietnam veterans formed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for the purpose of providing every American with the opportunity to pay grateful tribute to all who served in that war, and especially to those who gave their lives.

When these veterans asked me to be their spokesman for the project, I didn't hesitate. I've spent a lot of time entertaining troops in the field and in hospitals all over the world, and it

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.

1110 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 308, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 659-2490 (Not Prepared or Mailed at Government Expense) \*Served in Vietnam Affiliations noted for purposes of identification only

amazes me how many good people tend to forget our courageous veterans of Vietnam. Yet they served as honorably as did their fathers and grandfathers before them.

Take, for example, the experience of Jan Scruggs, one of the founders and now the president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. When he graduated from high school, Jan enlisted in the Army. He was barely 19 years old when he was assigned to an infantry company in Vietnam. By the end of his tour, he had seen half the men in his company killed or wounded. Jan himself was seriously wounded, and was awarded the Purple Heart and decorated for valor.

Here, in his own words, is what happened when he came home:

"On my return from Vietnam, still in uniform, a group of people my own age booed and made obscene gestures at us. This experience was painful, but others suffered far worse than I. One veteran -- an amputee -- was told straight out, 'It serves you right for going there!'

We Vietnam veterans soon learned that having served our country in this particular war was a dubious distinction at best."

These and other heartbreaking episodes experienced by so many of the returning Vietnam veterans must somehow be set right. We must show those who were hurt, rejected or just plain ignored, that this nation — however belatedly — does honor its sons and daughters who served during a most difficult time.

It is our duty <u>now</u> to show these veterans (who have yet to receive public recognition) that you and I personally care. And we can do so by helping the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund was founded with a single, specific purpose — to build a permanent memorial in our nation's capital, honoring veterans of the Vietnam war — especially those who gave their lives.

I am proud and happy to tell you that on July 1, 1980, Congress unani-mously approved a resolution authorizing two acres of national park land in Washington, D.C. for the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The resolution was sponsored by all 100 Senators and by 196 Congressmen.

The site for the memorial is located in Constitution Gardens near the Lincoln Memorial. The choice of site is significant, and no one has phrased it better than Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Jr. of Maryland, who originally introduced the resolution. I quote:

"A location on the Mall is symbolically appropriate. We can all recall when the Mall was the battleground of opinion and dissent regarding America's role in Vietnam. Its proximity to the Lincoln Memorial is also fitting, for not since the Civil War had this Nation suffered wounds and divisions as grievous as those endured over Vietnam."

I wholeheartedly agree and I am sure you will, too. You see, I can't think of a better way to express to these young men and women how much we all appreciate the sacrifice they made for our country. And I can't think of any more appropriate way to unite all Americans, regardless of how they felt about the war, than for them to participate in helping to build this memorial.

And that's where you come in.

Just the knowledge that the people of the nation -- liberals and conservatives, hawks and doves -- wish to honor those who served in Vietnam, will help restore the self-esteem of these thousands of returned veterans.

Similarly, this tribute will bring long overdue honor to the families of those who gave their lives in the war. But equally important to all Americans, this memorial will be a lasting symbol of our nation's determination to heal the divisions and differences generated by Vietnam, and to restore the unity which existed prior to that war.

IF THIS IDEA TOUCHES YOU, PLEASE READ ON . . .

Although this memorial will not bring back the dead, or heal the wounded, or erase the scars of war suffered by many thousands, it will stand as a perpetual symbol from a proud and grateful nation. That's why I am so enthusiastic about it. And about all we've accomplished so far.

This past May, the competition sponsored by The Fund to select a design was completed. More than 1,400 entries were received from architects, designers, artists and others from every corner of the country. The number of entries was remarkable -- and gratifying. It means people do care. The winning design was selected by a jury of internationally known experts in architecture, sculpture and design, and it is truly something to behold!

Maya Ying Lin, a 21 year old 1981 graduate of Yale University and a native of Ohio, designed a memorial which embodies everything the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund was looking for. Believe me, the memorial will be impressive and inspiring.

When completed, Maya's design will incorporate the following features:

- It will be appropriately identified as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and will display the names of the 57,692 American servicemen and women who died in Vietnam or are still unaccounted for.
- It will be fully accessible to the handicapped.

- It will be reflective and contemplative, complementing the surroundings and nearby national memorials.
- The gleaming, highly polished granite facade, in contrast with the lush green lawns, will magnificently honor not only the veterans but also their fallen comrades.

In short, the completed memorial will serve as the ideal remembrance of those who served in Vietnam. A remembrance long overdue and much deserved. Without doubt, it will instill pride in all Americans.

Aside from the gift of land from the federal government, establishment of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial will not receive one penny of government assistance or support.

The funds for the design, construction and inscription of the names of the dead (and all other aspects of the memorial) must come from the generous contributions of grateful Americans like you and me.

If you agree with me that it's time we did something to honor and recognize the sacrifices made by our sons and daughters who served in Vietnam, then here is what I would like you to do . . .

To turn the winning design into a finished memorial, about \$7 million is needed. We will only reach our goal when patriotic Americans from all walks of life help with their contributions. Your check for \$10, \$15, \$25, \$50 or any amount you can afford will make the difference. Remember too, your contribution is fully tax-deductible.

And, if America has provided you with the means to be very generous, then please won't you send a gift of \$100, \$500, \$1,000 or more. Donors of \$100 and more will receive a special certificate, suitable for framing.

For my part, I know of no better way to show Vietnam veterans that a grateful nation has not forgotten them than by having every American contribute to this memorial.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. And bless you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Bob Hope

P.S. If you can give \$20, it will inscribe the name of one Vietnam war serviceman who gave his life in service to our country. There are 57,692 names -- a lot of names -- a lot of lives. Won't you please help us by sending your tax-deductible gift of \$20, \$40 or more today?

## The wounds of Vietnam

There were no parades when the veterans of Vietnam came drifting home. No bands, no speeches in the park, no heroes' welcome marked the end of a long war and a lost cause. For the most part, the survivors of Vietnam got the silent treatment: So you served in Vietnam? Forget it.

A decade after the war's end, this shameful experience may be in part redressed. Congress is about to complete action on a bill authorizing a memorial here in Washington to the 2.7 million who served in Vietnam, and especially to the 57,661 who died there. If ever a patriotic cause merited universal support, this is such a

It is said that the war in Vietnam was the most unpopular war our nation has ever waged, and probably this is true. The Civil War claimed a heavier toll in dead and wounded, but it came to an honorable end. A thousand courthouse towns, North and South, erected statues to the Union and Confederate dead. Veterans of the Civil War had a certain standing in their communities.

Almost no one ever had a good word to say about our agony in Vietnam. In the beginning, many of us supported the commitment. It seemed an altogether moral and honorable act for the great and powerful United States to come to the aid of a small and almost defenseless ally.

But in time it became apparent that the Johnson administration's aimless but simply as a symbol of

purpose was to wage the war reconciliation and remembut not to win it. Even the brance. small enthusiasm faded. And meanwhile, on college campuses across the nation, violence erupted. Thousands of young men turned into draft evaders; hundred went to prison. This war was not "unpopular." This war was despised.

aspect of the whole miserable experience came later, when hostility to the war somehow got transferred to the men who served in it. Veterans who used their G.I. benefits to take college courses tended to be shunned by their fellow students.

#### The sacrifice should be remembered.

An infamous colloquy made the rounds:

"How did you lose your

"Lost it in Vietnam." "Serves you right."

No memorial ever can make up for this shabby treatment, but the current effort will try. The venture is largely the product of one man's determination. Jan C. Scruggs was wounded while fighting with the infantry in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970. He is now a specialist with the Department of Labor.

Last year he rounded up a small band of fellow veterans. They formed a nonprofit foundation to raise funds by public subscription to finance an appropriate memorial — not as a political statement of any sort,

Sen. Charles Mathias of Maryland went to work in the Senate. Two weeks ago he brought off a remarkable feat: All 100 members of the Senate came on his bill as co-sponsors. The measure now is pending in the House, where John Paul And perhaps the saddest Hammerschmidt of Arkansas is pushing for early action. By the end of this month, authorization may be completed.

> The sponsors do not envision anything very monumental. The bill would set aside two acres on the mall near the Lincoln Memorial. There would be a piece of sculpture, to be approved by the National Commission of Fine Arts. The area would be serenely landscaped. A memorial wall would bear the names of the dead.

> No tax funds are sought for the memorial itself. The venture is essentially private, which is as it should be. Once the necessary funds are raised and the memorial is completed, the Park Service will take over maintenance and Scruggs' small foundation will go out of existence.

In the 16 years I have been writing this column, I don't believe I ever have urged contributions to a particular cause. I do now. Tax-deductible gifts should be made to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, 1025 Connect-N.W., Avenue, icut Washington, D.C. 20036. The bitterness engendered by Vietnam may never be forgotten. The sacrifice at least should be remembered.

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Door Fellow american:
Inside: formes of Kelpatrick
Inside: formes of Kelpatrick
Inside: formes of Kelpatrick
I the Washington Start
I the Washington About
I the Wietnam Voterans Hemorial
The Vietnam O. Scruggo
Fres., VMF

#### SEND US A FRIEND

#### Dear VVMF:

Please send information on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to the following people. I believe they will be interested in helping.

 Name
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 Address
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Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.

P.O. Box 37240 Washington, D.C. 20013



#### MR. BOB HOPE

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND, INC. P.O. BOX 37240, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013

Dear Bob:

As a proud American, I am honored to join you in supporting the VVMF's efforts to build a suitable memorial to all who served in Vietnam. Of the 57,692 who lost their lives in that war 241 were from Washington, D. C. In their memory, I am enclosing my donation of:

\$500\_\_ \$250\_\_ \$100\_\_ \$50\_\_ \$25\_\_ \$10\_\_ \$5\_\_ Other\$\_

Hon. Morton C Blackwell The White House Washington, DC 20500

P767

Share our pride in this noble TRIBUTE TO VALOR and mail your donation to VVMF today!

Donors of \$100 and more will receive a special certificate suitable for framing. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE. Please consider your cancelled check as your receipt.

Signature

