

The members adjourned for lunch at 11:45 a.m. and reconvened at 12:30 p.m. in the Cash Room of the Treasury Department to review the last submission on the agenda.

D. Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary

CFA 13/OCT/82-1, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, design and location of additional name locator, sculpture and flagpole elements.
The Chairman reviewed the Commission's previous approval of the winning competition design and said it would now hear testimony relevant to the addition of several elements to that design.

The first group of speakers were those directly involved with this submission and included Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund representatives John Wheeler, James Webb and Jan Scruggs; architect Kent Cooper, landscape architect Joseph Brown, and sculptor Frederick Hart. The VVMF representatives outlined the history of the decision to request the additions and testified as to why they felt they were desirable and appropriate; those associated directly with the design discussed the elements themselves and their proposed location.

The next group of speakers testified in favor of the additions, feeling that they would bring an added dimension to the memorial and would honor the living as well as the dead. This group included Assistant Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel, Congressman Don Bailey, representatives from veterans groups, and individuals speaking for themselves. The last group spoke against the additions, saying they would destroy the integrity of the design and were not necessary. Speakers included Maya Lin, designer of the memorial, Robert Lawrence, president and fellow of the AIA, and Paul Spreiregen, FAIA, who had organized the competition. (A list of those who testified is appended to these minutes as Exhibit E .)

After approximately four hours all testimony had been heard, and the members left to visit the site. Upon their return, the Chairman reconvened the meeting. Then he made a statement in which he summarized the Commission's role as mandated by Congress, its review of the original design and suggestions made to overcome practical problems, and most recently, the statement in a letter to the Secretary of the Interior, that the Commission thought it would be possible to add other elements to the design in such a way as to receive its approval. He said the specific elements--a name locator, flag, and sculpture representing three Vietnam soldiers--had now been proposed, and the members had had a chance to review them, hear testimony, and visit the site. Their conclusions, he said, were as follows:

1. There should be more than one name locator; its design should be more dignified than the one proposed; and its location should not be on axis with the arm of the memorial, as proposed, because in that way it appears to be part of the design. He said that on visiting the site, the members felt that a location to the west, near the Southwestern entrance to the site, on the side of the Lincoln Memorial, from which most visitors will approach, would be most suitable and convenient to the handicapped.

2. A flagpole, approximately 50 feet in height, bearing an inscription at its base, would be totally appropriate to this memorial. He commented, however, that it would set a dangerous precedent and the Commission would look very hard at any suggestions for a proliferation of flagpoles on the Mall. He noted that there was already a ring of flags around the Washington Monument, the focus for the whole Mall composition. The location of this flagpole should also be near the entrance to the site.

3. The sculpture was considered competent, moving and appropriate. The Chairman said, however, that the maquette presented was very small, and final approval would have to be reserved until the final maquette was seen. Like the other two additions, its location was questioned. Set roughly in the middle of the site, it seemed episodic and had no relation to the flag, placed far away behind the wall of the memorial.

As they looked at the site, the Chairman said, it seemed to the members that the three elements should be placed in proximity to each other up front, near the southwest entrance to the memorial site. Here they would be more meaningful, have greater impact, and at the same time not disturb the original design.

When the Chairman had finished speaking, Mr. Netsch moved that his statement be accepted as that of the Commission. Mr. Stone seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Therefore, the addition of name locators, flag and sculpture were approved; their locations were not approved; nor was the design of the name locator.

The Chairman said the Commission would work with those involved to bring about a resolution as quickly as possible. He noted that the