

JAMES H. WEBB, JR.

2309 NORTH GLEBE ROAD • ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22207

24 November 1981

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

Dear Jan:

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

December 2, 1981



DIRECTORS

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

STAFF

Ian Craig Struggs*
President
Col. Donald E. Schaefer, USMC, Ret.*
Executive Vice President
Robert W. Doubek, Esq.*
Project Director/Secretary
Sandie Fauriol
Campaign Director
Karen K. Bigelow
Assistant Campaign Director

NATIONAL SPONSORING COMMITTEE

Arnold "Red" Auerbach
Pearl Bailey
Marion S. Barry, Jr.
Mayor
District of Columbia
Rocky Bleier*
Ruben Bonilla
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
The Hon. Ellsworth Bunker
Carol Burnett
Jose Cano
American U. I. Forum of the U.S.
Rosalynn Carter
The Hon. Max Cleland*
The Hon. Baltasar Corrada
Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico to the U.S. Congress
Howard Cosell
Gen. Michael S. Davison, USA, Ret.*
Former Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Army, Europe
The Hon. Gerald R. Ford
and Mrs. Ford
Philip Gevelin
Barry Goldwater
United States Senator from Arizona
Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC
University of Notre Dame
Bob Hope
Gen. David C. Jones*
Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff
Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.
National Urban League
Michael J. Kogutek
American Legion
The Hon. George McGovern
Robert P. Nunn
Administrator of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Administration
Nancy Reagan
Cari T. Rowan
Willie Stargell
Roger Staubach*
Jimmy Stewart
Vice Adm. J.B. Stockdale, USN, Ret.*
The Hon. Cyrus R. Vance
John W. Warner
United States Senator from Virginia
James Webb*
Author - Fields of Fire
Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Ret.*
Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

Mr. James H. Webb, Jr.
2309 North Glebe Road
Arlington, Virginia 22207

Dear Jim:

I have received your letter of November 24, 1981 by which you resigned from the VVMF National Sponsoring Committee.

The VVMF will make no representations that you support the design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Your name will be deleted from our letterhead and other materials on future printings.

I am a bit confused regarding your statement that you have received no response to your several communications regarding the design. I am aware that you wrote to the Fine Arts Commission regarding your opinion of the design, and made some suggestions to Bob Doubek in your letter of September 6th. Yet, I never had the impression that you desired to meet with us or receive a specific response. I would have been glad to do either had you so requested.

We are continuing to have fine progress with the project and Vietnam veterans from as far away as California are organizing to support it, and many are making plans to attend the dedication. Across the country people are really becoming involved and this is gratifying to me as a veteran.

While I respect your feelings about the design, I can not agree with your decision to resign from the Sponsoring Committee. This memorial is truly important not only for Vietnam veterans, but for the country. The design will be internationally recognized as a great work of art. More importantly the memorial will have special meaning because it was built by the American people to honor Vietnam veterans.

CORPORATE ADVISORY BOARD

Chairman
Paul Thayer
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, The LTV Corporation

Vice Chairmen

August A. Busch, III
Chairman and President, Anheuser Busch Companies
Wayne M. Hoffman
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Tiger International
John G. McElwee
President, John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company
J. Richard Munro
President, Time Inc.
Edmund T. Pratt, Jr.
Chairman of the Board, Pfizer Inc.
Hoyd N. Unsell
Executive Vice President, Independent Petroleum Association of America
T. A. Wilson
Chairman and Chief Executive, Boeing Company

Reproduced from the Collections of the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

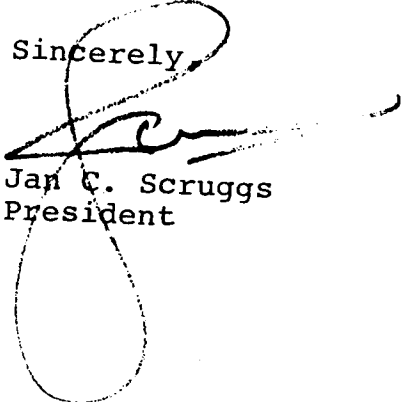
*Served in Vietnam
Affiliations noted for purposes of identification only.

Mr. James H. Webb, Jr.
December 2, 1981
Page 2

Jim, I hope that you will reconsider. However, if your decision is firm I hope that you nevertheless will recognize the importance of the success of the memorial.

If you would like to meet with me, at any time, please call.

Sincerely,



Jan C. Scruggs
President

JCS/caj

Webb is a sissy!

JAMES H. WEBB, JR.

2309 NORTH GLEBE ROAD • ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22207

pagel

2 December 1981

Dear Jan:

Thank you for your letter dated today, indicating that you will make no representations regarding my support of the design for the Memorial, and that my name will be deleted from the letterhead and other materials on future printings. I reiterate: if my name is used at any time from the date you received my certified letter, I will consider it a misrepresentation and act accordingly.

To refresh your memory, or perhaps to inform you for the first time as to my continuing dealings regarding this design, you might add the following contacts to the two you mentioned in your letter:

1. My many, many conversations with Jack Wheeler regarding the design, dating back to early May. I have assumed, with no objection from Jack, that as a member of your Board of Directors he speaks to you on a regular basis, and has the power to vote on certain issues. In early May, Jack urged me to "give the design a month" before I spoke out, which I did. He also assured me at that time, as did Donald Schaet in early June when he invited me to do some media with him, that there would be significant changes in the design. I see no such changes. Jack also contacted me in his capacity as a Director of VVMF several times in late September and early October.

2. Quite specifically, my lengthy conversations with Jack on Veterans Day, discussing this issue in great depth. As a matter of courtesy, I called him and read to him a piece that had already been accepted by the Washington Post. He became quite upset, and I withdrew the piece in exchange for his promise to attempt to negotiate some sort of compromise with other members of VVMF regarding the points in my testimony before the Fine Arts Commission. He was to get back to me within a week. I was not contacted again, and it is not unreasonable to assume, given subsequent events, that this was a delaying tactic designed to enable VVMF to conduct its Fort Bragg Dog and Pony Show on Capitol Hill, and to allow the American Legion piece to be published.

page2

3. You might also consider Bob Doubek's actionable defamation of me with respect to Grady Clay, after I attempted, in complete good faith and in hopes of mediation, to give Jack Wheeler a rundown on the rumor mill. I don't suppose Bob or anyone else needed an invitation to apologize to me. I certainly did everything I could to clear the matter up with Mr. Clay, sending you a courtesy copy of the letter, which you will recall also plainly stated that I would not remain on the Sponsoring Committee if the design kept its present form.

I am also greatly disappointed in the way that VVMF has dealt with the dissent regarding this design. You have publicly stated that only two people have disliked the design, when it should have been clear that many, many people legitimately detest it. You have been extremely vicious in your ad hominem attacks on Carhart; what is your syllogism? That anyone who dislikes the design is either troubled or a sore loser? You were asked by Ross Perot to tell those involved in the project that he had withdrawn his support, and yet I had to talk to him personally to find that out. These things trouble me. VVMF would make a great Nixon White House.

I also believe that a suitable memorial is important for the country. That is why I invested much of my own time and credibility in this project. But I never in my wildest dreams imagined such a nihilistic slab of stone. VVMF has the power to alter this design, and I would suggest that you seriously consider doing so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'Ji' with a stylized flourish.