

Statement Regarding Legislative Initiative

On Memorial Design

November 4, 1982



The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund opposes any legislative initiative to preempt or overrule the approval process of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial design by the Federal agencies and commissions mandated by Public Law 96-297 to grant such approvals. The American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars join VVMF in opposing political moves to dictate design matters. The National Salute to Vietnam Veterans and the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial herald an era of the recognition and acceptance that Vietnam veterans have long deserved, along with renewed national unity and patriotism. The legislative initiative is an attempt by a small but vocal group to exploit the positive benefits of these historic events for their own narrow purposes.

The Commission of Fine Arts and National Capital Planning Commission have been created by Congress to consider questions of design, planning, aesthetics, and appropriateness. These two, together with the Department of the Interior, are committed to completing a memorial that is both a magnificent tribute to all who served in Vietnam as well as a fitting addition to the sacred ground of the National Mall. Congress has never before interfered with the resolution of design matters in the hands of these agencies. To make the process subject to politics sets an unacceptable precedent.

DIRECTORS

John P. Wheeler III, Esq.*
Chairman
Robert F. Frank, CPA
Treasurer
Ronald F. Gibbs*
George W. Mayo, Jr., Esq.*
John C. Morrison, Esq.*
Richard E. Radez*
John O. Woods Jr., P.E.*

STAFF

Jan Craig Scruggs*
President
Col. Robert A. Carter, USAF, Ret.*
Executive Vice President
Robert W. Doubek, Esq.*
Project Director/Secretary
Sandie Faircliff
Director—National Salute to Vietnam Veterans
Karen K. Bigelow
Deputy Director National Salute to Vietnam Veterans and Campaign Director

NATIONAL SPONSORING COMMITTEE

Arnold "Red" Averbach
Pearl Bailly
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 G.I. Forum of the U.S.
Rosalynn Carter
The Hon. Max Cleland*
The Hon. Baltasar Corrada
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 Geyelin
Barry Goldwater
United States Senator
from Arizona
Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.
University of Notre Dame
Bob Hope
Gen. David C. Jones, USAF (Ret.)*
Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.
National Urban League
Michael J. Kogutek
American Legion
The Hon. George McGovern
The Hon. Robert P. Nimmo
Nancy Reagan
Carl T. Rowan
Willie Stargell
Roger Staubach*
Jimmy Stewart
The Hon. Cyrus R. Vance
Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr.*
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
John W. Warner
United States Senator
from Virginia
Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Ret.*
Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Army
The Hon. Joseph C. Zengerle*

*Served in Vietnam

Affiliations noted for purposes of identification only.

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, Inc.
Wayne M. Hoffman
Chairman and Chief Executive
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.
Lloyd N. Unsell
Executive Vice President
Independent Petroleum
Association of America
T. A. Wilson
Chairman and Chief Executive
Boeing Company

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.

1110 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 308, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 659-2490