

December 23, 1982

**VN
VETERANS
MEMORIAL
FUND**

The Honorable Morris Udall
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Udall:

Let me thank you for your support of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. I especially want you to know how much your help to our organization in the summer of 1980 was appreciated during our effort to get our legislation passed.

There was an unfortunate situation during the last session of Congress, however, and I suppose that former Congressman Don Bailey led you to believe that passing his resolution would somehow aid our efforts to complete the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The resolution, coming from a Member of Congress who has been an outspoken critic of our design, was an effort to alter the design by using political pressure rather than the review process outlined in Public Law 96-297. Under that law, the National Capital Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts and the Secretary of Interior must approve the design.

Congressman Bailey essentially tried to use the political clout of the Congress to overrule the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). The CFA has accepted the additions of the flag and statue to the design, but ruled that these must be put in an "entrance plaza" rather than located as outlined in Mr. Bailey's resolution.

The entire effort to build the important Vietnam Veterans Memorial ~~and~~ has been difficult and exasperating. In January of 1982 the entire project was almost scuttled when the Honorable Henry Hyde was able to get forty four House members to ask President Reagan to have us select a new design. We made a compromise with the opponents to add a flag and statue to the design. The compromise hearings were held by our long time ally Senator John Warner.

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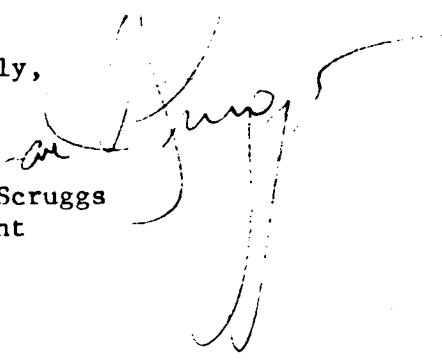
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Senators Warner and Mathias fortunately were able to stop Mr. Bailey's resolution from passage through the U.S. Senate. Unfortunately, there may be further legislative efforts to exert political pressure over the federal approval bodies during the upcoming session of Congress. These efforts will probably be given a boost by the successful effort that Congressman Don Bailey was able to bring about. I have attached here Mr. Bailey's statement from a recent press conference in which he made clear his intention to use the legislative process in the Lame Duck Session.

I am sorry about this entire matter and am hopeful that we can count on your support in the future. If you have the time I would like to meet with you to discuss this matter.

My highest regard,

Sincerely,


Jan C. Scruggs
President

JCS/rm

P.S. Our problem right now is with Secretary James Watt who will not forward our proposal to J. Carter Brown at Fine Arts. Our effort to complete the memorial rests in his hands, unfortunately.