

On September 22, 1982 representatives from the four major Veteran's Organizations (American Legion, VFW, Disabled Vets, Paralyzed Vets) met with Deputy Under Secretary Horn to discuss their united support for and concern that a dedication ceremony be held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site on November 11, 1982. They requested that your decision on this issue be made know to them by September 28th.

On September 23, 1982 the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. forwarded for your consideration the design, plans and specifications for the sculpture and flagpole additions to the original VVM. This submission represents the recommendations of the Sculpture Panel which was established to carry out the "Compromise Agreement".

The following options are available to you for resolving the outstanding issues that will be taken up by the National Capital Planning Commission (NPCP) on October 7, 1982 and the Commission on Fine Arts (CFA) on October 13th. Secretarial approval of Commission actions concerning design specifications and site location of the sculpture and flagpole would allow dedication ceremonies to proceed on November 11, 1982.

OPTIONS

1. Endorse the VVMF submission, as is, and forward letters of approval to the NCPC and CFA.

Dedication of the VVM would be conditional upon the NCPC and CFA approval of design specifications and site location of the sculpture and flagpole.

PROS

- Full compliance with "Compromise Agreement".

CONS

- High probability of major confrontation before CFA on October 13th.
- Probability of delay of final decision/plans for dedication on 11/11/82 while awaiting CFA consideration.
- Veteran's Organizations efforts to force issue.
- Media attention to issue prior to elections with Secretary of the Interior as central public figure.

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL BRIEFING (Continued)

2. Endorse VVMF submission, express support for design modifications and site location of sculpture and flagpole, but provide opportunity for NCPC and CFA to have flexibility in location of sculpture and flagpole on memorial site. ✓

Dedication of the VVM would be conditional upon your approval of the recommendations from the Commissions.

PROS

- Lessens probability of confrontation with the CFA on October 13th.
- Allows "professional" input at CFA to incorporate sculpture and flagpole into memorial site.
- Allows Veteran's Organizations to testify in support of sculpture and flagpole, but not on exact location of elements.
- Media coverage is of the "process" not "politics".
- Higher probability that VVM final design will be approved and that a decision and planning for a dedication will go forward.

CONS

- Opposition from Sculpture Panel that "Compromise Agreement" is not being carried out.
3. Endorse VVMF submission, recommend approval with no change in design or location of sculpture and flagpole.

Dedication will not occur until all elements are completed on memorial site.

Limited ceremony commemorating Veteran's Day will occur on 11/11/82.

PROS

- Full compliance with "Compromise Agreement".

CONS

- Highest probability for media/organizational attack prior to elections. Secretary of the Interior as central public figure.
- High probability that confrontation/counter demonstrations will occur at memorial site.

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL BRIEFING (Continued)

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

During the past week the VVM controversy has been confined to one remaining issue: The LOCATION of the sculpture and flagpole on the memorial site, NOT the INCLUSION of the sculpture and flagpole at the memorial site.

There is support for the sculpture and the flagpole being approved from VVMF, NPS, CFA, NPCP, Congress, and the Veteran's Organizations. However, there is support also for allowing the Commissions some flexibility in the location of these elements. The final confrontation between the original design and the addition of the sculpture and the flagpole can be diffused if professional architectural and landscape concerns can be addressed at the CFA. The opponents of any addition to the original design lose vast credibility if other professionals testify that the additional elements are correct, if properly located. After all, that is the purpose for the CFA.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Call Senator John Warner to discuss his opinion of the "Compromise Agreement" and its effect on location of the statue and flagpole.
2. Call J. Carter Brown to discuss the Commission on Fine Arts procedures on these matters.
3. Call Jim Webb for his opinion of the "Compromise Agreement" and its effect on location of the statue and flagpole.
4. Contact Veteran's Organizations to clarify decision on dedication of the memorial, as soon as possible, Monday, September 28th.