

September 23, 1982

The Honorable James G. Watt
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
C Street between 18th and 19th Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Watt:

We hereby forward for your consideration the design, plans, and specifications for the sculpture and flag staff for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial as submitted by the VVMF Sculpture Panel, which was established to implement the agreement for these elements of the memorial design.

Enclosure 1 is a photograph of the scale presentation model of the sculpture. The completed work would be cast in bronze with the figures approximately eight feet in height. It would rest upon a cast bronze pedestal twelve to eighteen inches high. We will be happy to provide the model for your examination at a time and place convenient to you.

Enclosure 2 is a plan of the site, showing the locations of the flag staff and sculpture relative to the walls of the memorial. The sculpture would be located approximately 150 feet from the walls, with the figures facing the vertex. The flag staff would be approximately fifty feet in height, located forty feet behind the vertex and approximately eighteen feet west of a line bisecting the angle of the walls. It would be bronze in color. The flag would be flown and lit continuously.

Enclosure 3 is the design of the flag staff pedestal, which would contain the emblems of the five military services and bear the following inscription:

THIS FLAG REPRESENTS THE GIFT OF SERVICE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BY THE VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR. ITS PRESENCE AT THIS SITE REAFFIRMS THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM FOR WHICH THEY FOUGHT. IT FLIES CONTINUOUSLY TO HONOR THEIR PRIDE IN HAVING SERVED OUR COUNTRY UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

Enclosure 4 is the final report of the Sculpture Panel.

We thank you for your personal interest and commitment to Vietnam veterans.

Yours truly,

Robert A. Carter
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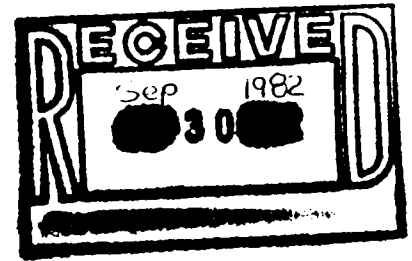
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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



SEP 29 1982

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

Dear Jan:

Thank you for your submission of September 23 which outlines the design plans and specifications for the sculpture and the flag staff to be added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. These elements were agreed to in the compromise struck under the leadership of Senator John Warner.

Based upon the commitments made in March 1982 and our review of your submission, I enthusiastically approve your latest submission. The addition of a heroic sculpture and our flag to the site will transform the design into one which honors both those who served our country and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We must not forget that our objective is to build a fitting monument to honor thousands of men and women who served their country in Vietnam. Design aesthetics are a secondary concern.

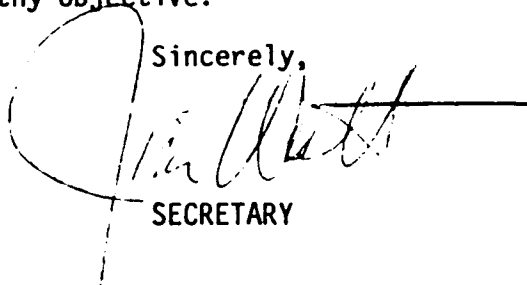
We have forwarded your submission and our approval to the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission on Fine Arts for their review. Based on previous communications between my office and the Commissions, I have every reason to believe that your submission will receive timely approval from these entities. Be assured that I have committed the full weight of this Department to securing the necessary approvals for your latest submission.

I am also prepared to direct the National Park Service to issue the required permits for dedication of the memorial on November 11, 1982, if both Commissions approve the additions of the sculpture and the flag staff to the memorial at their scheduled October meetings.

Pursuant to the compromise struck last spring, it would be inappropriate to permit a dedication to proceed if either of these critical design elements were disapproved or located in such a fashion as not to have the wall, the flag, and the sculpture constitute a single memorial.

The men and women who served our country in Vietnam deserve a fitting memorial and I congratulate you on your organization's unstinting efforts to fulfill this worthy objective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John Warner", written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

SECRETARY

cc: Senator John Warner
National Capital Planning Commission
Commission of Fine Arts
American Legion
Veterans of Foreign Wars
AMVETS

September 29, 1982



**VIETNAM
VETERANS
MEMORIAL
FUND**

The Honorable James G. Watt
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
C Street between 18th and 19th Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed for your consideration (Enclosure 1) is a drawing of the holder which we propose to install at the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to house a name locator directory. Enclosure 2 is a site plan indicating the proposed location for the directory. The holder is approximately three feet in height and cylindrical in shape, with a 16 inch diameter. The outer shell would be made of sheet bronze.

The alphabetical, printed directory volume will provide the numbers of the panel (of the 148 granite panels on the walls) and line (up to 137 per panel) on which each name appears. It will also provide additional information about each person such as rank, service, dates of birth and casualty, home town, and missing status.

Our proposal is a result of detailed research and discussion by VVMF and our architects of record into the question of a permanent, on-site device to enable visitors to the memorial to locate particular names in the chronological listing. Alternatives included a mechanical "rolodex" and an electronic computerized system. We selected the printed volume and holder on the basis of its simplicity and dignity, its familiarity and ease of use to the average visitor, and its low initial cost and cost of maintenance. Maintenance will consist of simply replacing the volumes as they become torn or worn. Our proposal includes supplying the National Park Service with a store of 1000 copies of the volumes, which would provide for replacing the volume once each week for twenty years.

As a single directory is not likely to accommodate the number of expected visitors, especially during the first year of the memorial's operation, the locator function will be supplemented by a volunteer guide program, with guides carrying additional directories. In addition, we plan to distribute up to 2000 copies to Congressional offices, state veterans offices, VA facilities, etc., so that memorial visitors may refer to the locator prior to arriving in Washington.

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Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.

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The proposed location for the directory is the point at which we expect most visitors to enter the memorial site.

We trust that this proposal will receive your favorable consideration. We respectfully request that you forward it to the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission for their consideration as well.

Yours truly,



Robert A. Carter
Executive Vice President

RAC/rm