

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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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