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February 4, 1982

file

**VIETNAM
VETERANS
MEMORIAL
FUND**

William O'Sullivan, Jr.
5 Sherbone Place
Sayreville, New Jersey 08872

Dear Mr. O'Sullivan:

Your letter to President Reagan was forwarded to us for information and reply.

I think you will agree that every work of art or architectural design has its critics. Some will like it, others will not. The more unique or bold it is, the more it will elicit comment. Such was expected of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, not only because of the anger, misunderstanding, diverse convictions, and hurt that are still left from the war but also because the design is unique and different from the traditional statue on a horse-impliments of war-battle scene memorials found in America.

I was quite surprised, however, at how readily people were willing to believe negative information about the Vietnam veterans to honor properly their comrades in arms. Nonetheless, the few detractors of the memorial design have been able to create confusion and doubt by spreading false and distorted information, inferring that the project is under control of communists and anti-war activists, and using other techniques short on integrity.

I ask you to read the enclosed material. If after you do, you are not in favor of the memorial, then at least you will have made an intelligent choice based on the best information available.

If, on the other hand, you believe as I do that the memorial will be a magnificent tribute to those of us who served in the Vietnam war, then we need your help. Although we are all but set to begin construction, we still need funds. A donation envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

I appreciate your interest and concern.

Sincerely,

D. E. Schaet

D. E. Schaet
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)
Executive Vice President

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Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

*Served in Vietnam

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JAN 4 1982

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

Dear Mr. Scruggs:

Under the resolution adopted by the U.S. Congress, the Department of the Interior and its National Park Service must review and approve the proposed design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. As a result of continuing modifications in the original concept submittal of June 1981, I hereby request that you advise me once the design has been finalized in order that I might proceed to a consideration of that proposal to fulfill my statutory responsibilities.

I am anxious to receive the full details of the final design, in order that my review will not delay nor inhibit the erection of a proper memorial to those brave men and women who served America during the Vietnam War.

Sincerely,

signed James Watt

Secretary

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

7-1-81

May 19, 1981

TO: ELIZABETH H. DOLE
FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL
RE: VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Since the office of the Vice-President declined this invitation, the group asked Tom Pauken, Director of ACTION, to be the main speaker at this event and he has accepted.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 14, 1981

TO: MORTON

FROM: Kathy

RE: VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Per your request, I called the Office of the Vice-President concerning the Vice-President's appearance at this service on May 25, 1981 at 1:00 P.M. According to their office, per Jennifer, the scheduler, they had "regretted" the event.



March 30, 1981

propose event

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison
Old Executive Office Building, Room 128
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Morton:

This letter is a follow-up on the two projects we discussed last Friday: a ceremony to sign the bill designating a day to honor Vietnam veterans; and our Memorial Day service.

As you know, we will hold our second annual Memorial Day service on the site of the future Vietnam Veterans Memorial at 1:00 p.m. on May 25. We have invited the President to be the speaker. I believe it is quite fitting that he accept, as it would not only honor Vietnam veterans and the families of those who died in the war, but also it would be one more action to reestablish the perception that serving in the military is an honorable and worthy endeavor. Please do what you can to persuade the President to accept the invitation.

Your idea of the President doing a public service announcement on behalf of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is terrific. As we discussed, holding a signing ceremony for the bill establishing April 26 as a day to honor Vietnam veterans would be a natural time to make the TV and audio tape. If the President were to endorse our project to build a national memorial to the Vietnam veterans during his remarks when signing the bill, and encourage all Americans to send a contribution to us, the resultant news coverage and later use of the taped remarks would hasten the day when we would have the money in hand to finish the memorial.

Needless to say, I would be delighted to give the President or any of his other assistants a complete briefing on the memorial project and to provide any detailed information necessary for his remarks.

I think we should keep Mrs. Reagan informed of any White House doings with VVMF. I would appreciate it if you would let Ann Wroblewski, her special projects secretary, know about this.

Morton, I was glad to have a chance to meet you and tell you about the memorial project, but more than that, our lunch meeting Friday was a good time. I will call in a few days or so to see how things are going.

Sincerely,

D.E. Schaet
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)
Executive Vice President

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Jan Craig Scruggs*
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Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the U.S.

*Served in Vietnam

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purposes of identification only

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.

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



March 30, 1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison
Old Executive Office Building, Room 128
Washington, D.C. 20500

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President
Col. Donald E. Schaet, USMC, Ret.*
Executive Vice President
Robert W. Doubek, Esq.*
Project Director/Secretary
Sandie Fauriol
Campaign Director

Dear Morton:

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As you know, we will hold our second annual Memorial Day service on the site of the future Vietnam Veterans Memorial at 1:00 p.m. on May 25. We have invited the President to be the speaker. I believe it is quite fitting that he accept, as it would not only honor Vietnam veterans and the families of those who died in the war, but also it would be one more action to reestablish the perception that serving in the military is an honorable and worthy endeavor. Please do what you can to persuade the President to accept the invitation.

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Needless to say, I would be delighted to give the President or any of his other assistants a complete briefing on the memorial project and to provide any detailed information necessary for his remarks.

I think we should keep Mrs. Reagan informed of any White House doings with VMF. I would appreciate it if you would let Ann Wrobleski, her special projects secretary, know about this.

Morton, I was glad to have a chance to meet you and tell you about the memorial project, but more than that, our lunch meeting Friday was a good time. I will call in a few days or so to see how things are going.

Sincerely,

D.E. Schaet
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)
Executive Vice President

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.

1110 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 208, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 659-2400



**VIETNAM
VETERANS
MEMORIAL
FUND**

March 25, 1981

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*Served in Vietnam

Ms. Ann Wrobleski
Director of Special Projects
Office of the First Lady
East Wing
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

STAFF

Jan Craig Scruggs*
President
Col. Donald E. Schaeff, USMC, Ret.
Executive Vice President
Robert W. Douback, Esq.*
Project Director, Secretary
Sandra Lauriol
Campaign Director

Dear Ms. Wrobleski:

Don Schaeff and I very much enjoyed meeting you last Thursday, and we appreciated the opportunity to brief you on our plans for our Memorial Day Service and for the judging of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial design competition.

As you know, we were extremely pleased when Mrs. Reagan joined our Sponsoring Committee, we knew that she had a personal commitment to recognize Vietnam veterans, and her name on our letterhead demonstrates this commitment to all whom our appeal reaches.

As we discussed, the schedule for the judging and exhibition of the entries in the design competition is as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <p>April 26 to
May 1:</p> | <p>Judging of entries by jury at Hangar #3,
Andrews Air Force Base</p> |
| <p>May 6:</p> | <p>WMF press conference to announce winner,
followed by VIP reception (10:00 a.m.
at a location in downtown Washington)</p> |
| <p>May 8:</p> | <p>Armed Forces Day preview open house
for handicapped, Andrews Air Force Base
(Hangar #3 and display of designs to be open)</p> |
| <p>May 9:</p> | <p>Armed Forces Day Open House at Andrews,
with 300,000 visitors expected (Hangar #3
and display of designs to be open to public)</p> |
| <p>June 10:</p> | <p>Reception on occasion of opening of summer
exhibit of best 100 designs at Pension
Building, 5th and G Streets, N.W., Washington</p> |

As I mentioned, we would be very honored if Mrs. Reagan can become involved in the design competition process in some personal way. I would like to suggest that she hold a luncheon or reception at the White House for the VVMF Sponsoring Committee on May 13th, or at some time during the following two weeks, at which the awards would be presented to the winning designers. If a luncheon or reception would not be convenient, then I suggest these alternatives:

1. Mrs. Reagan would unveil the winning design at the press conference on May 6th, and/or be the key speaker at the reception to open the summer exhibit at the Pension Building.
2. Mrs. Reagan would personally tour the display of design entries at Andrews on May 8th in connection with visit to the base for the open house preview for the handicapped.

The above suggestions are by no means exclusive, of course, and we would be deeply honored to have Mrs. Reagan's personal participation in whatever capacity might be convenient to her.

We thank you again for meeting with us last week. I will plan to telephone you next week to see if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Robert W. Doubek
Project Director

RWD/crc

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 19, 1981

TO: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL *MB*

RE: VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

*Morton -
thanks -
good job.
[Signature]*

Since the office of the Vice-President declined this invitation, the group asked Tom Pauken, Director of ACTION, to be the main speaker at this event and he has accepted.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jennifer file

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120

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is speaking
1:00 P.M.

Veterans
not
pickins

Jan Soregg's
↓
Sec'y of
Def.

May 14, 1981

TO: MORTON

FROM: Kathy

RE: VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Per your request, I called the Office of the Vice-President concerning the Vice-President's appearance at this service on May 25, 1981 at 1:00 P.M. According to their office, per Jennifer, the scheduler, they had "regretted" the event.

Site of proposed Vietnam Veterans
memorial -
Constit. Gardens

1 PM

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Veterans
raised

Pulse of
Country

Kim
Grady
7870

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO:

YOU WERE CALLED BY— YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization)

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. _____ FTS
CODE/EXT. _____
 WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU
 RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

1
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RECEIVED BY _____ DATE _____ TIME _____

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May 14, 1981

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*Served in Vietnam

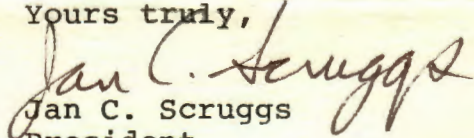
Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liason
128 Old Executive Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

On behalf of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund I cordially invite you to be our special guest at our second national Memorial Day service to commemorate those Americans who gave their lives in the Vietnam war. It will be held on Monday, May 25th, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The interfaith service will be conducted with the assistance of military chaplains and with music provided by the Marine Band. The principal speakers will pay tribute to the memory of those who died. Like last year, members of the audience will be invited to come forward and speak the name of one of our countrymen who did not return.

The service will last approximately one hour, and we would be most honored by your presence. We will reserve a place for you on the speakers' platform and plan to introduce you during the ceremony. If you can attend, I would appreciate it if you would let me know at your earliest convenience. I look forward to seeing you.

Yours truly,


Jan C. Scruggs
President

STAFF

Jan Craig Scruggs*
President
Col. Donald E. Schaet, USMC, Ret.*
Executive Vice President
Robert W. Doubek, Esq.
Project Director/Secretary
Sandie Fauriol
Campaign Director



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April 30, 1981

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Author - Fields of Fire
Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Ret.*
Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the
President for Public Liason
Old Executive Office Building
Room 128
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Morton:

By way of keeping you informed of our activities with the White House, I am forwarding the enclosed letters.

Many thanks for your work on the April 26 ceremonies at the Memorial site. Although it was an American Legion event, we were the chief beneficiaries. Not only will the donation help, but we received nationwide press, TV and radio coverage.

We are still hoping that the President will accept our invitation to the May 25 Memorial Day service at the site. While it is still several weeks away, we are getting close to the point where we will need to know if he will be there so we can finalize our plans.

Kathie joins me in sending our best regards to you.

Sincerely,

D.E. Schaet
Executive Vice President

Enclosure

DES:kmk

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



May 1, 1981

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Mrs. Ann Wroblewski
Director of Special Projects
Office of the First Lady
East Wing
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ann:

By way of keeping you informed of our activities as they pertain to the President, I am forwarding a copy of our invitation to the President to attend a small reception on May 6.

In a similar vein, I assume you are aware of Jan Scruggs call to Sheila Patton requesting that the First Lady send a telegram to WPKX (KX Country) radio for use on our May 8, 9 and 10 radiothon. A draft of the proposed message is being forwarded to Sheila separately.

We have decided to reschedule the display of the top designs. We will not hold it in the Pension Building during the summer. Rather, we are examining the feasibility of holding it in the Octagon Building in November of this year. Thus, the earlier proposal for Mrs. Reagan to view the designs at the display will have to be set aside for now.

We do, however, want very much to find a way for Mrs. Reagan to take an active role in the project. Two possibilities--both of which would be extremely helpful--are as follows. The first is for Mrs. Reagan to sign a thank you note for each donation of \$500 or more that we receive. Currently, we thank all donors with a letter and send those who give more than \$100 a certificate. We need a more meaningful way to say thank you to larger donors. There would not be very many of these; thus it would not be an administrative burden.

The second possibility is to have Mrs. Reagan request that one or more corporate leaders serve on our corporate fund raising campaign advisory board. It is difficult at best for us to line up the people we need in this regard without the help of a prestigious person. Yet, this is the most crucial thing we need at this time to make the memorial project a success.

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I would like to discuss these suggestions with you in more detail at your earliest convenience. I will call in a few days to arrange an appointment.

Thank you for your assistance and kind consideration to date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D.E. Schaet".

D.E. Schaet
Executive Vice President

Enclosure

DES:kmk



April 30, 1981

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The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Reagan:

On May 6, 1981 a small reception to view the design selected for the Vietnam veterans Memorial will be held in Room 4232 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building from 5 to 7 p.m. Leaders from both the House and Senate will attend, and we would be honored by your presence.

The design is being selected through the largest design competition ever held, and the winner will be announced May 6. This is a very significant milestone in the process to establish a national Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the two-acre site close by the Lincoln Memorial authorized by Congress last year.

Please join us for this very special event.

Sincerely,

Jan C. Scruggs
President

JCS:kmk

STAFF

Jan Craig Scruggs*
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Sandie Fauriol
Campaign Director

November 3, 1981

**VIETNAM
VETERANS
MEMORIAL
FUND**

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*Served in Vietnam

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purposes of identification only.

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President for Public Liaison
Old Executive Office Building, Room 128
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Morton:

Just a few lines to keep you up to date on the memorial.

At a press conference last week we announced several items.

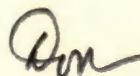
- . We passed the \$2.5 million mark
- . That the missing would be listed chronologically with the dead, but specially identified (see enclosure),
- . That a locator would be available for visitors to locate names of loved ones and friends.
- . The inscription (see enclosure),
- . That drainage, safety and access for the handicapped are easily solved problems, and solutions are at hand.

As you know we will have a design exhibit open on November 11 at the Octagon House (18th Street, N.W. and New York Avenue). Mrs. Reagan is the honorary chairman for the reception on the 10th which will kick it off.

I think you will soon see another favorable piece by James Kilpatrick, a Mobil editorial touting the memorial, and favorable coverage on CBS Morning News. Truth is starting to follow in Nike's instead of wooden shoes!

All in all, progress is good. If needed, we still stand ready to brief anyone who wants a factual update.

Sincerely,



D. E. Schaet
Executive Vice President

DES/rm

Enclosures

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For Further Information Contact:

Pat Pellerin or George Tanber
202/393-1300

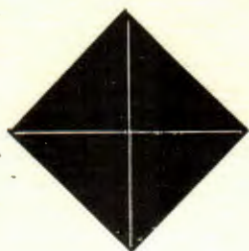
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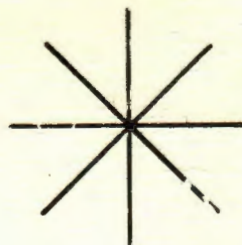
MISSING IN ACTION

CODE SYSTEM

Approximately 1,350 Americans remain missing and unaccounted for after the Vietnam War. Their names will be differentiated by a special code system. At the time of its dedication, on the memorial there will be one of the following symbols after each name.



Died

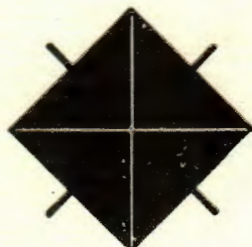


Missing/
unaccounted for

In the event that a missing man returns alive, his remains are found, or he is otherwise accounted for, the code symbol following his name will be changed as follows:



Missing, but later returned alive



Missing, but later found to have died.

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FACTS ABOUT THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

There have been a number of misunderstandings about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial design that deserve clarification.

VIETNAM VETERANS PARTICIPATION IN DESIGN COMPETITION. Vietnam veterans had an integral role in selecting the memorial design.

- Vietnam veterans were included in selection of the memorial design process from beginning to end.
- VVMF Board of Directors and staff are largely composed of Vietnam veterans.
- The Board of Directors and the staff of VVMF selected the jurors based on their expertise in their fields and sensitivity to the needs of the nation for a memorial to the Vietnam veterans.
- Each juror was personally interviewed.
- All jurors were required to read current literature about Vietnam, e.g., Fields of Fire and A Rumor of War.
- Four of the eight jurors are veterans -- three saw combat -- one of whom received a Purple Heart (Anzio, World War II).

- more -

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.

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- The jury submitted its report to a group of Vietnam veterans (Board of Directors, VVMF staff and advisors), composed of former members of the Air Force, Army and Marines; Purple Heart recipients; and former enlisted men as well as officers.
- The group unanimously approved the design.

THE MEMORIAL WILL BE HIGHLY VISIBLE. It will be visible from the Washington Monument, almost a mile away, and from the Lincoln Memorial, less than 600 feet from the site.

- There will be a gentle slope down to the face of the memorial which is ten feet tall at its center.
- It will be one-third longer than a football field, almost as long as the Washington Monument is tall.
- It will be visible from all directions.
- Due to its prominent location, it will be seen by millions of Washington visitors every year.

INSCRIPTION. There will be an inscription on the memorial that refers to the Vietnam War.

- The inscription reads as follows:

(PROLOGUE)

In honor of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam War. The names of those who gave their lives and of those who remain missing are inscribed in the order that they were taken from us.

(EPILOGUE)

Our nation remembers the courage, sacrifice and devotion to duty and country of its Vietnam veterans. This memorial was built through private donations from the American people. Dedicated November 11, 1982.

- Also inscribed on the memorial will be the names of all those who gave their lives and the names of those who remain missing.

METHOD OF LISTING THE NAMES. The names of the 57,692 who gave their lives or are still missing will be listed in chronological order.

- The chronological listing depicts the war as complete and having come full circle.
- This method of listing best depicts the sacrifices of individuals as well as the magnitude of the nation's sacrifice in the war.
- A directory will be readily available near the memorial from which visitors can locate the names listed.

BLACK COLOR. The memorial will be highly polished black granite, a color representing dignity and respect.

- Black granite has been used in other noted memorials: the Iwo Jima, (Washington), the Seabees (Washington), and the Vietnam War Memorial (South Boston).
- The memorial's mirror-like surface will reflect the sky and nearby trees as well as the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.
- Its beauty will be enhanced by the surrounding two acres of green lawn, stately trees, pleasant walkways and modest landscaping.

THE SHAPE OF THE MEMORIAL. The memorial is composed of two, 200 foot long arms which intersect at a 130 degree angle.

- One arm of the memorial points directly to the Washington Monument, and the other to the Lincoln Memorial, thus bringing the service and sacrifice into historical context.

HANDICAPPED ACCESS, DRAINAGE AND SAFETY. The memorial will be fully accessible to the handicapped, safe for all and properly drained.

- Access for the handicapped and adequate safety are mandatory requirements for all construction in Washington.

- Proper drainage for this memorial is an easily solved engineering problem.
- Detailed plans for the handicapped access, safety and drainage are being prepared.

THE PURPOSE OF THE MEMORIAL. The sole purpose of the memorial is to honor and recognize all Americans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States in the Vietnam War.

- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is dedicated to fulfilling the purpose of the memorial.
- Inasmuch as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is directed by -- and largely staffed with -- Vietnam veterans, it is unthinkable that they would do less.

#



File

May 4, 1981

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Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the
President for Public Liason
Old Executive Office Building
Room 129
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Morton:

Jack Wheeler asked me to draft this memo for him and send it to you as per your request at the meeting with him last Friday.

The 1421 entries to the memorial design competition will be on display in Hanger 3 at Andrews Air Force Base from 8:30 to 5:00 on Saturday, May 9. I can assure you that it is a moving experience to see the outpouring of works that went into doing something for the Vietnam veterans.

Last year, some 300,000 people attended the Armed Forces Day open house at Andrews. Thus, we expect to have many people visit the display. We have invited all the designers to attend and more than 200 have accepted so far.

I believe it will be an enjoyable experience to visit the display. It is also a fine opportunity for members of the administration to get involved with, and show an interest in, Vietnam veterans matters. I think that you might want to extend a special invitation to the following people to attend.

Ty McCoy, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
(M,RA&L) designate

Tom Pauken, ACTION Director designate

John O. Marsh, Secretary of the Army

John F. Lehman Jr., Secretary of the Navy

George Verne Orr Jr., Secretary of the Air Force

Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary of Defense

STAFF

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Executive Vice President
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Project Director/ Secretary
Sandie Fauriol
Campaign Director

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.

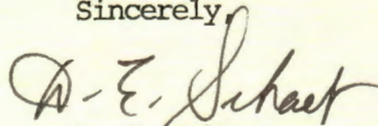
1110 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 308, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 659-2490

If any of these people, or others whom you invite want to come to see the designs, please let Bob Doubek of VVMF (659-2491) know, so he can arrange to meet them at the hanger.

As you know there will be a reception at the Dirkson Office Building in room 4332 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm on Wednesday, May 6. The winning design will be presented and the designer will be introduced. Mr. Nemo and Mr. Longworth from the VA have been invited as have numerous members of Congress and others who have an interest in the memorial. Of course, you are invited to attend also.

I know you are well aware of our invitation to the President to speak on May 25th, but Jack asked me to mention it in this memo. While we certainly do not want to dilute the strength of our request for the President to accept, it is worth mentioning to you that if he cannot come, we would want the Vice President in his stead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. E. Schaet". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

D. E. Schaet
Executive Vice President

cc: Jack Wheeler

DS/jep



file

April 13, 1981

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Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison
Old Executive Office Building, Room 128
Washington, D.C. 20500

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Jan Craig Scruggs*
President
Col. Donald E. Schaet, USMC, Ret.*
Executive Vice President
Robert W. Doubek, Esq.*
Project Director/Secretary
Sandie Fauriol
Campaign Director

Dear Morton:

I was sorry to hear of the loss in your family. My heart goes out to you and your wife.

By way of keeping you up to date, I am forwarding a copy of a letter we received from Gregory J. Newell. Since it does not flatly reject our invitation for the President to speak at the May 25 Memorial Day service, I take it to mean the matter is still under active consideration. Anything you can do to promote a favorable reply to our invitation would be very much appreciated.

I trust you are aware of developments regarding the resolution designating April 26 as National Recognition Day for Veterans of the Vietnam Era. At a series of meetings on the topic with Congressional staffers, veterans group representatives and others, all were hard pressed to decide what could and should be done to transform the idea into substance locally. Needless to say, we at WVMF want not only for the veterans to be honored but also for people to focus on supporting the memorial. We are optimistic that will happen.

Thanks for your help, Morton. I will keep you posted on WVMF developments. If I can be of help to you, please call on me.

Sincerely,

D.E. Schaet
Executive Vice President

DES/crc

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Air Force Association
The American Legion
AMVETS
National Guard Association of the United States
The Non Commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America
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*Served in Vietnam

Affiliations noted for purposes of identification only

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

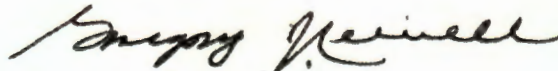
April 8, 1981

Dear Ms. Scruggs:

On behalf of the President, I wish to acknowledge and thank you for inviting him to speak at the second annual Memorial Service for Vietnam Veterans which will be held here on May 25 at the future site of the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial near the Lincoln Memorial.

Particular notation has been made of your invitation and nearer the date I will be back with you about the possibility of the President's acceptance. In the meantime, please know of his warm appreciation for your thoughtfulness of him.

Sincerely,



Gregory J. Newell
Special Assistant
to the President

Ms. Jan C. Scruggs
President
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.
1110 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 19, 1982

TO: MORTON BLACKWELL

FR: DANNY BOGGS

Group opposes planned Vietnam memorial

Viet vets propose alternate

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — They say it is what they remember when they think of Vietnam — a rifle standing muzzle down in the mud, the generations-old symbol of a fallen infantryman.

They want to see that symbol towering over Arlington National Cemetery, three stories high, the black plastic of the M-16s they carried to a faraway war transmuted to black marble, shot with veins of red, the precision machinery of the receiver reproduced in a massive aluminum casting, all supported by a column of steel barrel.

The Vietnam War, the most divisive modern conflict in modern American history, cannot even be memorialized without drawing a protest.

A group of Vietnam veterans, outraged at plans to build what they consider an inappropriate or insulting memorial in Washington, want to replace or upstage it with one of their own design, based on the rifle-in-the-earth sign of a dead soldier.

"This is what we saw with tears in our eyes after a fight, rows of M-16s stuck in the ground by their bayonets," said Steve Androff, vice president of the United Veterans Coalition.

Funds are now being raised for a \$7 million Vietnam War Memorial to be built near the Lincoln Memorial. The group behind the drive was headed by Vietnam combat veteran Jann Scruggs.

The design, chosen from more than 1,400, was submitted by Maya Ying Lin, a 21-year-old Yale architecture student.

Two 200-foot-long polished black granite walls would be sunk below ground level, meeting in an inverted "V," bearing the names of all 57,000 servicemen killed in the war.

"We think we know better than a bunch of strangers what should stand in Washington to remember our brothers by," Androff said.

"Look at who's raising funds for this — Bob Hope, Gen. Westmoreland, all those people who kept the war rolling and our blood flowing."

Androff said his group is preparing to launch a national campaign to have their idea for a monument replace the controversial design approved in Washington.

"We have 3,600 members," he said, "and I'm sure many more veterans would join us in this."

"We also have some support from Vietnam: veterans in Congress, who agree with us that a black marble slab isn't much of a monument."

Androff, a commercial artist who served in the 1st Infantry Division, has drawn up plans for the enormous



UPI Telephoto

Vietnam War veteran Steve Androff, vice president of the United Veterans Coalition, says many veterans don't like the Vietnam War memorial now planned for Washington. Behind him is a depiction of his group's alternative — a three-story-high M-16, standing muzzle down in the earth, the generations-old symbol of a fallen infantryman.

mous rifle monument, and would like it to be built entirely by Vietnam Veterans and placed in Arlington "with the Marine memorial to Iwo Jima, the tombs of the unknown soldiers — something we can look up to instead of down into the earth.

"There are great artists, architects, engineers, craftsmen, all who served in Vietnam," he said.

"We'd need welders, stonecutters, machinists, and from the reac-

There have been several protests against the current design plans, including complaints that its shape echoes the v-fingered peace sign, symbolic of many who refused to fight in the war while others served.

Another Vietnam veteran, twice-wounded West Point grad Tom Carhart, appealed to the Capital Fine Arts Commission Tuesday to re-open the design competition, saying black was "the color of dishonor"

'We think we know better than a bunch of strangers what should stand in Washington to remember our brothers by,' one veteran said

tion I've gotten from other veterans, I don't think I'll have trouble finding them."

He estimates the monumental rifle would cost \$3 million, and concedes there is no money available to build it now.

"But our lawyers are drawing up papers to apply for non-profit status so we can accept donations, and I'm preparing a poster that will show what the memorial would look like to raise funds for it."

and the monument is "a black grave in the earth."

"This monument has become symbolic of the Vietnam War, and like the war it's getting people bitterly divided," said Forrest Lindley, a correspondent for Stars and Stripes who was a captain in the green berets.

"The sad thing is that the monument is becoming a symbol for the frustration and bitterness and anger of Vietnam veterans"

Public Law 96-297
96th Congress

Joint Resolution

To authorize the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., to establish a memorial.

July 1, 1980

[S.J. Res. 119]

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., a nonprofit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the District of Columbia, is authorized to establish a memorial on public grounds in West Potomac Park in the District of Columbia, in honor and recognition of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam war.

Vietnam
Veterans
Memorial Fund,
Inc.,
establishment.
16 USC 431 note.

SEC. 2. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., is authorized and directed to select with the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission a suitable site of approximately two acres in size located in the area of West Potomac Park known as Constitution Gardens in the District of Columbia: *Provided*, That if subsurface soil conditions prevent the engineering of a feasible foundation system for the memorial in a location in that area, then the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., is authorized and directed to select a suitable site of approximately two acres in size located in an area of West Potomac Park north of Independence Avenue other than Constitution Gardens.

Site selection.

(b) The design and plans for such memorial shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission: *Provided*, That if the Secretary of the Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts, or the National Capital Planning Commission fails to report his or its approval of or specific objection to such design and plans within ninety days of their submission, his or its approval shall be deemed to be given.

Design plans.

(c) Neither the United States nor the District of Columbia shall be put to any expense in the establishment of the memorial.

Expenses.

SEC. 3. The authority conferred pursuant to this resolution shall lapse unless (1) the establishment of such memorial is commenced within five years from the date of enactment of this resolution, and (2) prior to groundbreaking for actual construction on the site, funds are certified available in an amount sufficient, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Interior based upon the approved design and plans for the memorial, to insure completion of the memorial.

Termination of
authority.

MEMORANDUM

DJB

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 18, 1982

TO: MARTIN ANDERSON
ED GRAY

FROM: DANNY BOGGS *DB*

Attached is a slightly revised version of my memo on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

Per your request for actual representations of the memorial, I attach four versions taken from the public press.

I have secured a physical model of the memorial, which is available at your convenience in Room 230, Old EOB. Please let me know when you would like to see it.

I also have in hand the actual drawings from which the memorial will be built.

82
F1

AT A RECENT American Institute of Architects gala in the glassy AIA building near the White House, hundreds paused amid swizzle sticks and hors d'oeuvres to hear flowery speeches by an odd mix of top architects and combat-hardened U.S. soldiers.

Squeezed into a corner of the stage, lost in the pomp, sat a slim young woman with Chinese features and black hair falling to her hips. In her hands she clutched a black beret. When called to speak she managed little more than a low, husky "Thank you."

Thunderclaps of applause. Maya Ying Lin, 22, stunned the architecture world last spring by winning — while still a Yale undergraduate — a nationwide design competition for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to be built on the Mall near the Lincoln Memorial.

She is the scion of what was, in the early decades of the century, one of China's most remarkable literary, artistic and political families. That chaotic and brilliant world is gone, but the cultural mix of East and West that characterized it has helped shape this new young architect and her work.

An Asian artist for an Asian war.

NOVEMBER 22 Sunday
Beginning to vanquish the devils. A silly way to put what is within me, but for months it has been getting darker and colder inside. The memorial [design details are] near

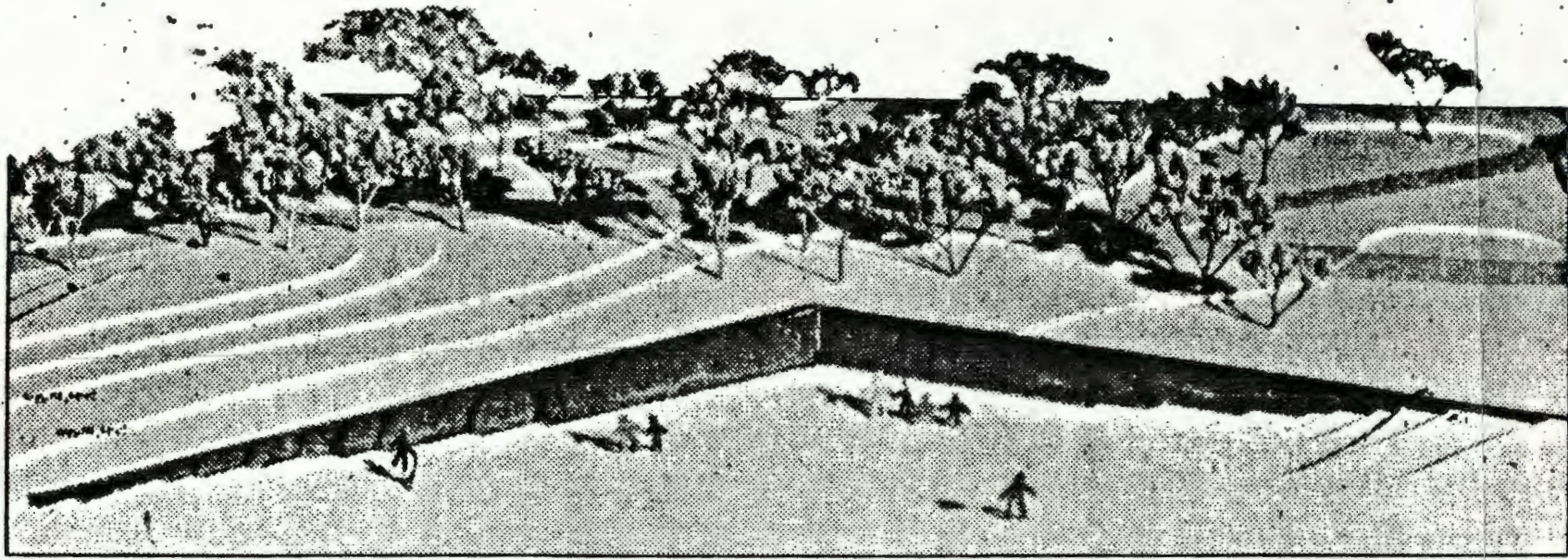
crazy, a mixture of elation and anorexia nervosa, had forgotten to eat for days, and then the eyes and whispers she's the one . . . the little girl, the child, praise and awe, i felt like a prize, yet so small, not me but the competition was on parade, i was just a victim of it, you would be grateful of the compliments only if you knew who was being sincere . . .

— Maya Lin's journal

Lin's design — spare, black, merged with the earth — has been criticized as unheroic. In another view, it is a hymn to death and sacrifice with the power to move to tears, and art critics say it may be one of the world's great war memorials.

Maya Lin and The Great Call of China

The Fascinating Heritage of the Student Who Designed the Vietnam Memorial



It differs from most Washington monuments in its understatement, its blending with the landscape, its serene invitation: an Asian monument for an Asian war, the hint of a 4,000-year-old culture transmuted in the art of a Chinese-American girl from Athens, Ohio.

Friends and architects who knew her at Yale describe Lin as powerfully artistic, emotional, fiercely independent, driven: intuitive and personal in her approach to art.

Now she lives temporarily on Capitol Hill and works as a consultant to a local architectural firm hired to develop the details of her design and supervise construction of the memorial. Lin herself, not yet an architect, doesn't know how to draft.

On a recent day she stood with a

young architect over his drafting table in the firm's office. She pointed with a pencil at a drawing there, rendering her verdicts like a housewife supervising a home contractor.

"I don't know if I want it to be totally flat," she said softly. "The top is beginning to look like a ramp; I just don't like that."

He made a change. She approved.

"It's incredible how possessive I am about the memorial," she said in an interview later. "It's like my art is my babies. For the first time I created something beyond myself. Usually creating is such a selfish act. I have a friend whose father died in Vietnam. The mother just came up to me and said, 'I'm Gil's mother and I think what you've done is wonderful.'" A lot of people write, thanking me. They think it is beautiful."

Lin was born and raised in Athens in a white clapboard house cluttered with art materials. Art and literature were part of daily life, and she worked in ceramics, silversmithing, sculpture.

Her brother Tan is a published poet. Her parents fled mainland China in the 1940s. Henry Huan Lin is a well-known ceramicist and dean of fine arts at Ohio University, Julia C. Lin a Smith graduate, poet and professor of oriental and English literature.

"She's got the most fantastic genes," said Yale China scholar Jonathan D. Spence. "It's the most creatively brilliant family . . . It goes right back to the roots of revolution,

See LIN, F9, Col. 1

W Post 1/3/82

P: F1

by Phil McCombs
DJB

Design

Storm over a Viet Nam Memorial

An eloquently simple design for Washington's Mall draws fire

Though Viet Nam veterans never got big parades, by next year they should at least be able to dedicate a memorial to their fallen comrades. But as with so much else touched by that tragic war, the memorial's eloquently understated design is stirring controversy.

Designated for a site on two acres of gently rolling park land on Washington's Mall, the monument will consist of two black granite walls that meet in a V and recede into the ground. One critic, Viet Nam Veteran Tom Carhart, calls it "a black gash of shame." The *National Review* labels it "Orwellian glop."

The winning design, picked from among 1,421 entries last May in a national competition, was submitted by a Chinese American, Maya Ying Lin, 22. "I've studied funerary architecture, the relation of architecture to death," says Lin. She has pointed the 200-ft.-long walls of her memorial west to the Lincoln Memorial and east to the Washington Monument. On those walls will be listed the names of the 57,709 Americans who died or were declared missing in Viet Nam. The names will appear in chronological, not alphabetical, order (another source of criticism). The roll begins on the right wall, with the name of the first American killed in Viet Nam, in 1961. It continues on the left and ends with the year 1975. Thus the first and last to die meet in the center and, as Lin puts it, "the war is 'complete,' coming full circle."

A lively, articulate woman who was born in Athens, Ohio, Lin graduated only last May from Yale, where she majored in architecture (and beat out one of her mentors in the Viet Nam competition). It was her concept, rather than her hazy pastel rendering of it, that won over the eight-man jury (four architects, three sculptors and one critic).

The first sour note to mar the initial symphony of praise came from Pulitzer prize-winning Architecture Critic Paul Gapp of the *Chicago Tribune*. "The so-called memorial," he wrote, is "bizarre" because it is "neither a building nor sculpture." But of course it is precisely those

unclassifiable qualities that make Lin's design so eminently right. It fits. At this time in the history of our architecture, and at this place in the monumental heart of Washington, additional buildings or sculptures would intrude. In retrospect, it is hard to conceive of anything but a horizontal landscape design that could meet the criteria that the memorial be "neither too commanding nor too deferential."

This is confirmed by a look at some 50 of the other entries that will go on display next week at the American Institute of Architects headquarters in Washington. They illustrate our time's bewildering embrace of almost anything: from architectural stunts to sculptural theatrics, from the pompous to the ludicrous,

from the innovative to the reactionary.

The rejected entries include such kitsch as a house-high steel helmet and a number of handsomely styled columns, pylons, tablets and structures that belong at a world's fair or amusement park. Other designs accommodate the thousands of names on various layouts of slabs, blocks and other geometric stones and look depressingly like constructivist graveyards.

The sculpture is mainly of the socialist realism school. Not that realism is unacceptable; we are rediscovering its value. The trouble is that no sculptor since Augustus Saint-Gaudens has been able to come up with a convincing metaphor that can be realistically rendered. The gods of Greek mythology have fled.

None of the runners-up, however sincerely conceived, deserves a place near the Lincoln Memorial. While there is nothing sacred about the Mall, the majesty of this green carpet demands dignified simplicity, if not nobility, of any newcomer. Lin's design meets that demand.

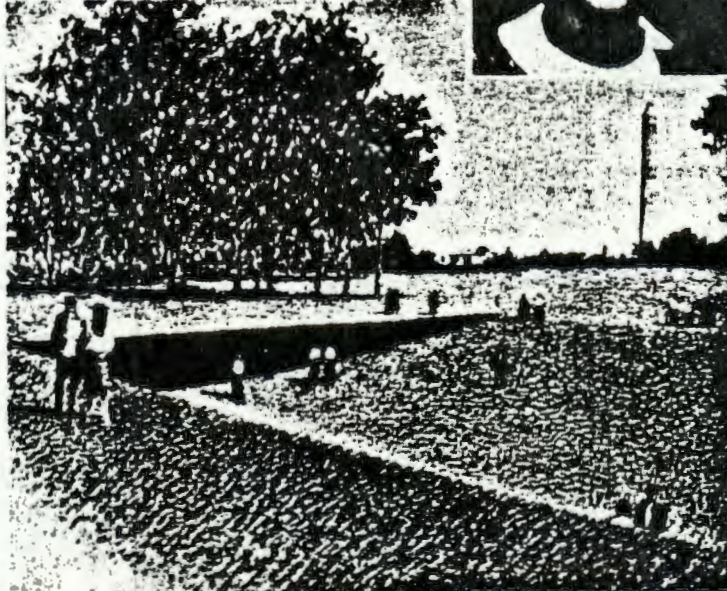
That simplicity disturbs those who want a more assertive memorial. The *National Review*, calling for a sculpture, sees the black granite, sunken walls and unalphabetical roster as a conspiracy to dishonor the dead. Carhart, a Purple Heart winner who lost out in the design competition (he proposed a statue of an officer offering a dead soldier heavenward) says the jury should have consisted of war veterans, as if a beauty contest should be judged only by beauties.

However heated the criticism has been of the Viet Nam veterans' dark chevron, it has been tepid compared with the storms that have raged over other public monuments. The Franklin D. Roosevelt memorial, approved in 1960 and still unbuilt, was smothered in epithets like "instant Stonehenge" and "bookends out of a deep freeze." Not until next spring, incredibly, will Washington get its first monument to General Pershing and the American Expeditionary Forces of World War I. Those bothered by abstract design might consider that grand obelisk, the Washington Monument. We have come to love it. Some day the Viet Nam memorial, too, may win the hearts and minds of the American people. —By Wolf Von Eckardt

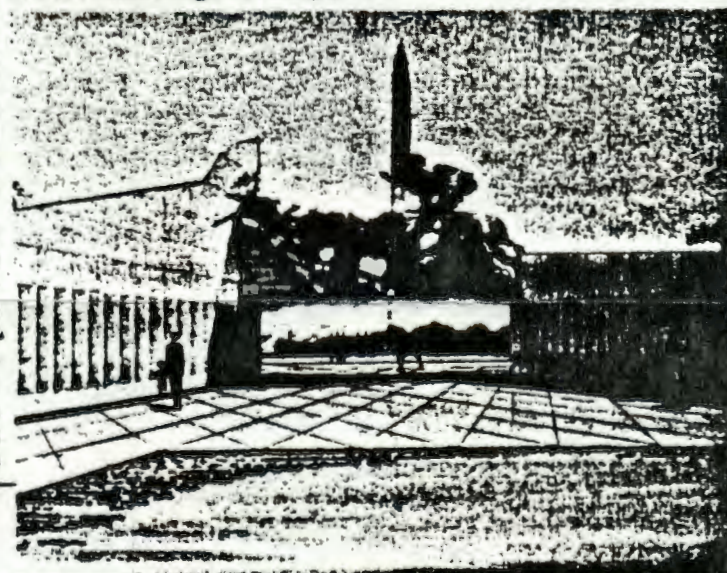
Winner Maya Ying Lin



PAUL STEVENSON OLES



Not too commanding: Lin's design, above and second-place entry, below



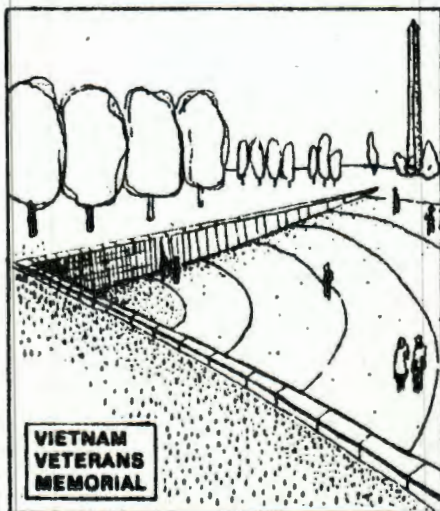
Reassessing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

By JAMES H. WEBB JR.

I, like many Vietnam veterans I have spoken to, face a Hobson's choice with respect to the proposed Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Having served on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's National Sponsoring Committee, and having also worked on Capitol Hill to help gain passage of the authorizing resolution, I want very much to see a memorial on the Mall. On the other hand, I believe the memorial chosen through the recent design competition is, as other detractors have maintained, a nihilistic statement that does not render honor to those who served.

In 1980 the Congress authorized the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVVF) to erect with private funds a memorial that would "honor and recognize the men and women of the armed forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam war." The fund, which was the brainchild of a small group of Washington-based Vietnam veterans, held a nationwide design competition, with jurors selected on the basis of their eminence in the artistic and architectural community.

The winning design, which the fund proposes to build in Constitution Gardens just off the mall in time for Veterans Day 1982,



consists of two black walls, joining at a 135-degree angle, with one wall pointing toward the Lincoln Memorial and one toward the Washington Monument. The top of the memorial will remain at ground level, while the base will recede into the earth to a depth of 10 feet where the two walls join. On the walls will be the names of those who perished in the war, listed chronologically, supposedly in the order they fell. There will be no flag, no images indicative of war. The original design did not carry the word "Vietnam," though now a short inscription is apparently planned where the walls meet. It will be, as writer and Vietnam veteran Al Santoli mentioned to me, "a place to go and be depressed."

What is one to do? Is any memorial bet-

ter than no memorial? At what point does a piece of architecture cease being a memorial to service and instead become a mockery of that service, a wailing wall for future anti-draft and anti-nuclear demonstrators? And most importantly, how did this travesty, this unwinnable paradox, come about?

It is important to make one clarification. The dissatisfaction with the proposed design is not the product of the far right, which has been panned in some recent articles as wanting to see a Vietnam era update of the Iwo Jima memorial, nor is it the product of a few disgruntled contestants in the design competition. The issue is whether this design meets the congressional mandate to "honor and recognize the men and women . . . who served in the Vietnam war." All this talk of a memorial "suitably capturing the national feeling about Vietnam," whatever that is and whatever else it might be 10 or 100 years from now, is secondary to that mandated purpose. If it does, fine. But it must first honor and recognize those who served.

The present design does neither. First, it is a memorial only to the dead. Maya Lin, its designer, has been very clear on this point, stating that "this memorial is not meant as a memorial to the individual, but rather as a memorial to the men and women who died during the war, as a whole."

The New Republic magazine took umbrage at this conception of the memorial. "Its purpose," the magazine said, "is to impress upon the visitor the sheer human waste, the utter meaninglessness of it all. It is an unfortunate choice of memorial To treat the Vietnam dead like the victims of some monstrous traffic accident is more than a disservice to history; it is a disservice to the memory of the 57,000 It is surely an excess of revisionist zeal."

A memorial devoid of embellishment, which will take up almost 200 yards of the Capitol Mall to list the names of the dead on a long black wall, violates the congressional mandate, and also violates the repeated assurances given early supporters by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. In addition to me, Admiral James B. Stockdale, Medal of Honor winner and the dean of the American prisoners of war, has resigned from the National Sponsoring Committee of the Fund for so long as this design prevails.

Businessman Ross Perot, who provided nearly all of the funding for the memorial

10/2

WSJ
1/14/82
P:30

In Defense of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

By JAN C. SCRUGGS

I was shocked by James H. Webb Jr.'s attack (editorial page, Dec. 18) on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial because of design details in what will be a magnificent and fitting tribute. Jim fears the monument will become "a wailing wall" for anti-draft demonstrators. I, too, believe that tears will be shed there, but I'm sure they will belong to the millions of Americans who will visit the memorial on the Mall in Washington and be deeply moved.

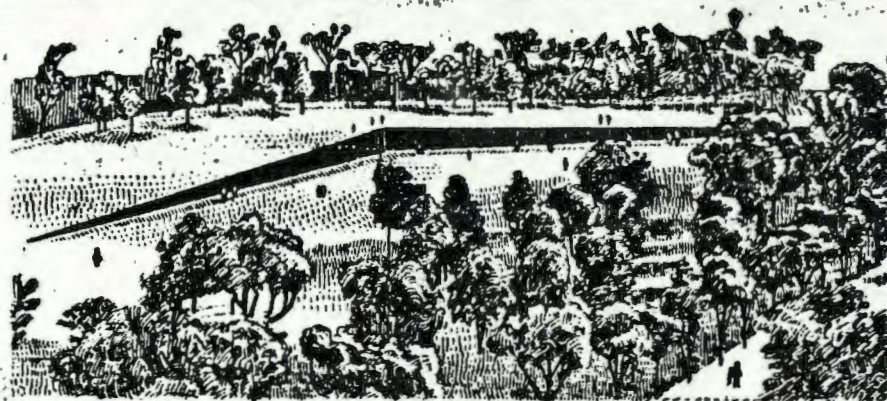
No design can please everyone, so Jim may not be entirely alone in his view that the monument should include "embellishment" and "images indicative of war." But the overall response has been overwhelmingly positive to the chosen design—two simple, highly polished black granite walls bearing the names of our Vietnam dead and arranged in harmony with the natural setting and the other great monuments on our national Mall.

Americans from all walks of life have written in support, and more than 250,000 sent contributions. Up to a thousand letters a day, usually with \$10 and \$20 checks, stream in from across the country.

Dozens of veterans groups endorse the design. "Magnificent," said Robert Muller of Vietnam Veterans of America. The VFW contributed \$220,000—all raised after the design was made public last May. "We

think the memorial will truly be grand," said VFW National Commander Arthur J. Fellwock recently. The American Legion, which pledged \$1 million to build it, said the design will create "a place of honor

is a great work of art, chosen by a jury of leading architects in the largest design competition ever held in America. The choice was then approved by a group of Vietnam veterans who helped to organize



Artist's drawing of proposed Vietnam Veterans Memorial

simple and quiet, yet strong and definite."

Paul Thayer, chairman of LTV Corp., is heading the corporate fund drive that has so far raised more than \$1 million from 390 businesses. Mr. Thayer thinks the design appropriate and asks that contributions be sent to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Suite 308, 1110 Vermont Ave., Washington, D.C. 20006.

The design isn't anti-war or pro-war. It

the fund that I head. Jim Webb asks why there was no veteran on the jury, having himself declined to serve on it. The answer is that we didn't have to take the design proposed by the jury. We—veterans all—agreed it was the best.

The design underwent intense scrutiny. Jim submitted written testimony opposing the design; it was taken into consideration. He had his say and lost, fair and square.

We favor having an American flag fly at the site. Engraved in stone to honor the 57,692 dead and missing and the 2.7 million who served will be the words: "Our nation honors the courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty of its Vietnam Veterans."

The brilliant young architecture student who designed the memorial, Maya Ying Lin, is an American girl from Ohio whose parents fled Communist China to live in freedom. Their daughter's design is a noble expression of that freedom.

Time magazine named the memorial one of the 10 best designs in America in 1981. Army Times called it "simple, honest and in good taste."

One anonymous editorial writer pronounced the design an "outrage" in the National Review, only to have NR editor William F. Buckley Jr. later concede that the judgment had been "premature." Buckley made amends by running a column describing the monument as "beautiful, imposing, and fitting."

When Jim resigned from our fund, he tried to get Gen. William C. Westmoreland, former commander in Vietnam, to resign with him. Gen. Westmoreland declined, writing to Jim that, "With an open mind and careful consideration of all factors, my verdict is not in agreement with yours. [The memorial] is in no way a 'trench, black polished granite is far more handsome than any other possible stone, the chronological listing of names is not inappropriate, the structure reflects dignity and good taste and blends in aesthetically [with] that beautiful area of Mall."

"The war in Vietnam sadly, and I believe unjustifiably, divided our nation. Those of us who served in Vietnam believe that we fought for a worthy cause and are proud to have done so. It is now sad indeed to see efforts to divide us."

Westy sent me his personal check for \$1,600 made out to the fund.

Mr. Scruggs is president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
January 18, 1982

TO: MARTIN ANDERSON
FROM: DANNY BOGGS *DB*
RE: Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Issue:

Should any steps be taken to prevent approval of the current design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, as proposed by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund?

Background:

Congress, by SJR 119 (1980), authorized the construction, with private funds, of a memorial to Vietnam veterans, to be erected at Constitution Gardens on the Mall. The statute provides that the National Park Service, among other groups, must give its approval to the proposed memorial within 90 days of submission of final plans. NPS must also certify the financial ability of the group to carry out construction before final authority is given.

As a result of substantial controversy over the chosen design, Secretary Watt has indicated that he would take his responsibilities under the statute seriously, and wrote to the head of the VVMF asking for a prompt finalization of plans so that he could review them. (It may be argued that the plans have already been submitted and the 90-day period has already run. However, the plans have been changed significantly since original submission, and a legal appeal to this argument would probably fail.)

Last Thursday, Watt met the proponents of the memorial, but no resolution was reached. He characterized their presentation as "impressive," but also indicated that it would be "a sad day when 'artistic freedom' controls what America should stand for." He inquired as to White House desires on this matter, and appeared quite willing to cooperate in whatever course of action is chosen.

Thirty-one Republican Congressmen have written a letter in opposition to the current design, and a letter from numerous Senators is expected. At the same time, a number of prominent conservative figures have continued in support of the Memorial, including James Jackson Kilpatrick, General Westmoreland, and Bob Hope. (See Attachment 1)

Discussion:

The controversy over the design has included two major elements.

(1) The physical design itself. The memorial will be basically black, recessed into the earth, and the primary motif is a list of the killed and missing.

(2) The inscription and accoutrements. As originally presented, according to some, the memorial would not have mentioned the name of the war involved, contained no flag, no inscription of honor or gratitude.

As the design was revealed, many Vietnam veterans felt that "their" memorial had been hijacked by people of a basically anti-war persuasion. Numerous requests for changes were made. Some of these changes were addressed, but in such a grudging fashion as to reinforce the notion that honoring either the wishes or the persons of the veterans themselves was very far from the thoughts of the VVMF leadership. The opposition is now quite vocal and well organized, as evidenced by the letters cited above, the withdrawal from sponsorship by Ross Perot, James Webb, and other original supporters, and plans for suits by relatives of deceased soldiers to prevent their names from being included in the monument.

On the other hand, many feel that no disrespect has been intended, that the final design is a moving and artistic tribute, and that a political struggle over the meaning of Vietnam is being waged on both sides. Some of the critics have indicated that their concerns could be allayed if the memorial were "white, above ground, and with a flag." It would seem that "above ground" would be the most difficult to alter, while adding a flag would be the easiest.

It does seem to me that a memorial which is taken as offensive by most of those it is designed to honor is both futile and unseemly. At the same time, it is unclear if that is the view of the majority of veterans. Opponents of the current design have offered to have a neutral poll commissioned and to abide by the expressed desire of the majority of veterans. The VVMF has apparently refused. Perot has announced he will fund a poll somewhat along these lines.

Options:

(1) Kill the current design, by Park Service disapproval. This might well kill any national memorial for many years or forever. The fate of the FDR Memorial is instructive. Controversy over design has meant that no memorial has ever been built. At a minimum, new legislation would probably be required, and any future design would probably invite vigorous attack from those who support the current one. This would also cause at least some political furor, as well as undoubtedly drawing the President into expressing, directly or indirectly, some opinion on the design.

(2) Allow the current design to go through. This will undoubtedly also create considerable political discontent. The opponents have indicated that they will go to great lengths to stop construction, including lawsuits, probably attempts at Congressional action, and even various types of direct action.

(3) There has been some indication that the inscription and surrounding trappings could be changed enough to satisfy most of the organized opponents. The VVMF has thus far refused to be responsive. It is at least possible that with sufficient pressure, in the form of threats of non-approval, satisfactory language could be worked out. This is an option that should be seriously explored, as a way out of the all-or-nothing controversy created by a choice of either Options 1 or 2.

Very recently there appears to have been some additional willingness to negotiate on the part of the memorial supporters. For example, in a Wall Street Journal piece last Thursday, Jan Scruggs, the President of the VVMF, indicated "we favor having an American flag flying at the site." This could indicate greater willingness to be accommodating, now that significant opposition has been aroused.

The inscription has also been a point of controversy that opponents indicate could be a part of changes that would allow a suitable resolution. The current language includes a Prologue:

In honor of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in Vietnam. The names of those who gave their lives, and of those who remain missing, are inscribed in the order they were taken from us.

The Epilogue contains the following words:

Our nation remembers the courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty of its Vietnam veterans.

This has been criticized as lacking any expression of recognition, gratitude, or true sense of appreciation or honor, that it recognizes only death, not the ideals of "Duty, Honor, Country."

Recommendation:

I would recommend that primary attention be given to Option 3. Watt could meet now with opponents, as he has with the proponents, and attempt to reach some compromise on the wording and trappings. If that fails, Options 1 and 2 can be addressed.

In the Eye of the Beholder

Balt Sun

1-14-82 Washington

A LONG-FORGOTTEN Irish novelist, Margaret Wolfe Hungerford, is today remembered for a single line in a long-forgotten work called "Molly Bawn." This was the line: "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder."

The line comes to mind in contemplating the flap that has arisen over the design for the pending Vietnam Veterans Memorial. I happen to think the design is superb; in my own view, it promises to be the most moving war memori-

By James J. Kilpatrick

al in this country, if not in the world. My brother conservatives of *National Review* think the design is terrible. Many veterans approve it warmly—the American Legion has pledged \$1 million and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have contributed \$250,000 toward its construction.

The idea for this memorial began to germinate three years ago in the mind of Jan Scruggs, a fairly obscure fellow in an obscure office of the Department of Labor. He is a soft-spoken guy with steel in his spine. He also has steel in his arms and legs—shrapnel left over from his year with the infantry in Vietnam. He came home from the war not only with the shrapnel but also with a decoration for gallantry.

In common with many other veterans of Vietnam, Mr. Scruggs resented the indifference and hostility exhibited by an ungrateful nation toward the men who had fought there. He began to talk up the idea of a memorial. In April, 1979, he formed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. A year or so later Congress donated a site on the mall between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument with the understanding that funds to build the memorial would be privately raised.

Last year, in a conscientious effort to avoid precisely the kind of controversy that recently has arisen, the fund sponsored a design competition and asked a blue-ribbon jury to name a winner from the 1,421 designs that were submitted. The jury chose a design by Maya Ying Lin, a brilliant student of architecture at Yale.

Some of the most noisy critics are contending that the design makes a "political statement." The objection is fatuous. The memorial will consist quite simply of two walls of black granite in which the names of the 57,000 dead of Vietnam will be carved. No Corinthian columns. No frou-frou. No Winged Victories. No temples or arches or obelisks.

These were the dead of Vietnam. We honor them.

That is the poignant statement this memorial would make. I happen to believe the war was just as Ronald Reagan described it in August 1980: It was indeed a "noble cause." In the end the cause was lost, but that tragic fact cannot obscure the motivation nor denigrate the sacrifice. If this contemplative memorial prompts visitors to reflect upon the price of defending freedom, so be it. Like beauty, meaning will lie in the beholder's eye.

One of the most asinine objections came from the left-wing *New Republic*, in which a columnist saw the names as if they were victims of "some monstrous traffic accident." An even more depressing objection came from the right-wing columnist Pat Buchanan: One member of the design jury, unidentified, "allegedly had a long association with the American Communist Party." A cheaper shot has seldom been fired.

Probably the sponsors of the Vietnam Memorial should have expected such pettifogging opposition. Ours is a nation of 225 million critics of art and architecture. After 30 years of proposition and dissension, agreement is yet to be reached on a memorial to Franklin Roosevelt. The best we have done for James Madison is to name a library annex for him. Even so, it is a pity to encounter this divisiveness. The war was divisive enough.

My hope is that the sponsors of this eloquent memorial will not be deterred by the small but passionate opposition to the design. The fund is slowly approaching its \$7 million goal. Ground is to be broken in March. A year hence the memorial could be in being. Viewing it, each of us may remember what he wishes to remember—the cause, the heroism, the blunders, or the waste.