



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

FEB 25 1982

Honorable J. Carter Brown  
Chairman  
Commission of Fine Arts  
Washington, D. C. 20006

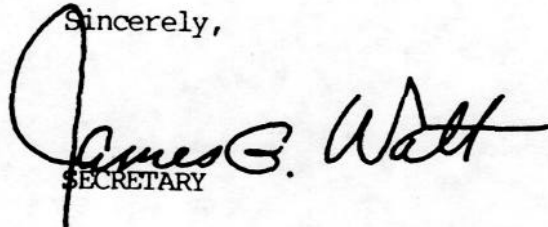
Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department recently received the enclosed revised submission from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund outlining an altered design for the Memorial to be constructed in Constitution Gardens. The basic design is unchanged except for the addition of a flagpole and a statue of an American soldier. The precise location of the flagpole and the details regarding the sculpture have not yet been decided. These design refinements have been added in response to intense interest on the part of Members of Congress and other interested parties. The altered design submitted to me represents a compromise which may be expected to facilitate construction and dedication of a memorial to those Americans who served their country in Vietnam.

Pursuant to the statute which authorized the Memorial, the design is subject to approval by your Commission as well as the Department. I am not prepared to act on the submission of February 11 without assurances that the design improvements meet with the approval of the Commission. The compromise so carefully worked out will be for naught if the design refinements are disapproved and not constructed as part of the Memorial. Accordingly, I feel obliged to await a response from your Commission regarding the acceptability of the design and refinements before rendering my decision. Moreover, I am compelled to consult with Members of Congress before finalizing our decision.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to an early response.

Sincerely,

  
James G. Watt  
SECRETARY

Enclosure