



	THE	1735 New York Avenue.
	AMERICAN	Washington, D.C.
Robert Broshar, FAIA	INSTITUTE	Telephone: (202) 626
President	OF	Cable Address: AMINA
	ARCHITECTS	Telex: 71082

January 17, 1983

The Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill Jr.
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker O'Neill:

The American Institute of Architects joins the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund in strongly opposing any legislative initiative that would preempt or overrule the approval process for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial design.

Public Law 96-297 (S.J. Res. 119), which established and authorized the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Fund, Inc., sets forth the procedures and guidelines for the design, construction and funding of the Memorial. In addition, Public Law 92-582 and Senate-passed legislation in the 97th Congress (S. 2080) also reflect Congressional intent concerning the design and construction of memorials, landmarks and other structures of national significance. To date, an orderly and open process has been followed in the design, approval, construction and dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This process should not at this point be compromised by the introduction of political considerations.

The Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission have been created by Congress to consider questions of design, planning, esthetics and appropriateness. This has been their historic role in protecting and enhancing the beauty and dignity of this nation's capital. In the specific case of this nation's Vietnam Veterans Memorial, these two commissions together with the Department of the Interior were charged by the Congress to oversee and complete a memorial that is a fitting tribute to those who served in Vietnam, as well as an appropriate addition to the National Mall. This process should now be brought to completion rather than delayed and politicized.

In closing, I would urge you to continue to support the orderly process outlined in Public Law 96-297 to allow the healing process that the Memorial was intended to engender to go forward to completion, as Congress intended.

Sincerely,

Robert Broshar, FAIA
President, The American Institute
of Architects

THE AMERICAN
INSTITUTE OF
ARCHITECTS
NEWS

JAN 18 1983

THE AIA URGES CONGRESS TO
SUPPORT ORDERLY PROCESS FOR
COMPLETING VIETNAM VETERANS
MEMORIAL DESIGN AS INTENDED

Contact: Ray Rhinehart
(202) 626-7463

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 17, 1983--The American Institute of Architects has joined with the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund in strongly opposing any legislative initiative that would preempt or overrule the approval process for The Vietnam Veterans Memorial design.

In a letter to all members of Congress, President Robert Broshar, FAIA, explained that Public Law 96-297 (S.J. Res. 119), which established the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Inc., "sets forth the procedures and guidelines for the design, construction and funding of the memorial."

"In addition, Public Law 92-582 and the Senate-passed legislation in the 97th Congress (S.2080) also reflect Congressional intent concerning the design and construction of memorials, landmarks and other structures of national significance," observed Broshar.

"To date, an orderly and open process has been followed in the design, approval, construction and dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This process should not at this point be compromised by the introduction of political considerations," he stressed.

Broshar pointed out that the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission have been created by Congress to consider questions of design, planning, esthetics and appropriateness. "This has been their historic role in protecting and enhancing the beauty and dignity of this nation's capital," he said.

(more)

THE AIA URGES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT ORDERLY PROCESS FOR COMPLETING VIETNAM VETERANS
MEMORIAL DESIGN AS INTENDED

January 17, 1983

Page 2

"In the specific case of this nation's Vietnam Veterans Memorial, these two commissions together with the Department of the Interior were charged by Congress to oversee and complete a memorial that is a fitting tribute to those who served in Vietnam, as well as an appropriate addition to the Mall. This process should now be brought to completion rather than delayed and politicized," wrote the AIA president.

Broshar urged Congress to support the orderly process outlined in P.L. 96-297 to "allow the healing process that the memorial was intended to engender" and to go forward to its completion as intended by Congress.

This latest step to preserve the design integrity of the memorial was taken in response to efforts by a few Congressmen to overturn the Commission of Fine Arts' recommendation to separate design elements of the memorial. At the close of the 97th Congress, then "lame-duck" Rep. Don Bailey (D.-Pa.) introduced a House resolution aimed at placing the additional flagpole and statue of three infantrymen within the "V" of the recently dedicated memorial, designed by Maya Ying Lin. This resolution was thwarted in the Senate by Sen. Charles McC. Mathias Jr. (R.-Md.). In the meantime, Interior Secretary James Watt has withheld submission of any plan which would complete the memorial.

Any move to propose new legislation to repeal the accepted process would result in new congressional hearings, which are likely to "rekindle the war in a mindless and impassioned way," wrote Washington Post columnist Philip Geyelin. The AIA, American Legion, VFW and VVMF are working to prevent any Congressional action that would further delay completion of the memorial and the healing process.

####