

MR. BREDER: Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, my name is Scott Breder, a Vietnam Veteran. I enlisted. I served as a translator-interpreter.

My reaction to the initial design was immediate and negative. This occurred upon the winning entry, along with the 1,400 other entries at Andrews Air Force Base in May of 1981.

I spoke before the Commission to express my disapproval early. I prefaced my comments by adding my reluctance to the chapter of the country's history that has been full of controversy. There has been controversy surrounding the design selected.

While some progress has been made to resolving that controversy, all issues have not been resolved.

If I may digress briefly, but to emphasize my strong support for the admissions before us, I would like to restate the opening testimony of that initial meeting of Mr. Paul Spreiregen, the advisor to the jury which selected the winning entry, and which I feel expresses the prevalent thoughts of the jury in this design. These comments may be verified in written testimony of that design.

There has never been a precedent of the design for a war memorial such as this, there has never been such a war

in the country that may forever remain controversial.

I submit that the memorial is not to speak of the war, or the controversy surrounding it, but only to honor the service and the memory of the war's dead, its missing and its veterans. To give those who served, those missing and those who died, something less than honor is a disservice, and a potential tragic error to the Americans.

I personally feel it is a tragedy of the initial design, that it denies those Veterans, the missing and the war's dead, the honor which the memorial was intended.

Hence, I strongly feel that the addition of the American flag and a statue should be an integral part of the monument, and without them the memorial will not fulfill the intent of Congressional legislation that a memorial be built to honor the Vietnam Veterans, the missing and the dead.

I would like to restate the comments of Andy Messing, that the compromise agreed to on March 11th, 1982, and the meeting chaired by Senator Warner was that the flag be placed at the very apex of the two walls, and that the statue be located approximately 10 feet from the apex, centered between the two walls. That was the compromise agreed to by a majority for submission to the Commission on Fine Arts.

I strongly urge the Commission to approve the

addition of the American flag and statue as an integral part of the memorial, and not removed from the memorial.

Specifics of the compromise included not only the addition of the flag and the statue, but the specific location as well. That was the single proposal agreed to for submission to the Commission on Fine Arts for their approval.

I strongly urge that the Commission approve the additions, and the specific locations.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you very much.

Fred Downs?

If he is not here, we will move to Paul Haaga.

A VOICE: He had to leave, also.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Understood.

Edward Lyle?

MR. LYLE: Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, my name is Edward Lyle. I am an attorney in Washington, D. C., and also a resident of this city.

During the Vietnam War I served in the United States Army as a junior officer in Thailand, basically along the border between Thailand and Laos, and Thailand and Cambodia.

I am a member of the George Washington Chapter of the United States Army. I am testifying, however, in a