

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 15, 1982

Honorable James G. Watt  
Secretary  
Department of Interior  
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to express our concern over the proposed location change of the additions to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

We are very pleased that the Commission of Fine Arts approved the addition of a flagpole and a sculpture of three infantrymen to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. However, we are strongly opposed to the Commission's demand that the location of these additions be changed to a place outside the memorial wall area.

In the final design compromise, approved earlier this year, the flag pole was to be placed above the wall with the sculpture located within the "V" of the wall approximately 170 feet from the apex. While we feel that there is room for adjustment in the placement of the additions, we can not support a placement that goes substantially beyond the area agreed upon. The compromise agreement called for the clear integration of the additions with the memorial wall. To separate the additions and the wall in such a manner as proposed by many for perceived aesthetic reasons is unacceptable.

The new elements were added because many Vietnam era Veterans strongly objected to the original memorial. By moving the flag and sculpture to another location, we face the same problem with which we began.

We stand firm in our support of the original compromise which will adequately convey to future generations our deep gratitude to those who honorably served this country in a very difficult time.

Because of this, we ask that the Department of Interior not grant a permit for dedication of the memorial until the positioning of the additions in conformance with the compromise agreement is resolved.

Sincerely,

*Steve Segerson* James A. McClure

John P. East

Chuck Grassley

Don Bailey

Larry E Craig

Phil Crane

Henry J Hyde

cc: James McClure  
John East  
Chuck Grassley  
Don Bailey  
Larry Craig

Phil Crane  
Henry Hyde  
Commission of Fine Arts  
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund  
National Capital Planning Commission