

literally a compromise, this is not something that was gagged down our throats by anyone else. This is something where Vietnam Veterans went into a room and hammered it out, and we came out with this, and yes, I was an extremist, and no, I still don't like that wall, but the compromise means a whole minute piece, we will accept a statue and the flag, the statue was a blunt appraisal of the way we were. I am moved by it. I am pleased that this emotional feeling could be caught up by a man who was never there, and yet it has been. That is a work of artistic genius.

I would humbly request that you consider the purpose of this memorial, and the background of this compromise, and allow us to have a memorial that would be truly honest.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you very much.

Michael S. Davidson.

MR. DAVIDSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for asking me to speak at this hearing.

I am a member of the Vietnam Veterans Advisory Council. I am also a Veteran. I have 36 years service in the United States Army, including service in Vietnam.

I find that the statements of those who preceded me to this podium in support of the addition of the statue,

and of the flag, eloquent indeed. I am overwhelmed, and I, in particular, wish to associate myself with the remarks of my colleague, General George Price.

I would like to direct your attention to the statue which has been often repeated here this afternoon, to tell you that someone who knows soldiers are soldiers, someone who understands the excruciating trials of combat, this statue is breathtaking, because Frederick Hart, out of his genius, has captured that unique bond that ties men together in the face of danger, and gives them sustenance, indeed, ties them together in the face of constant danger.

As a bond of love, the bond that causes the soldier to sacrifice his life for his comrades, and therefore, is properly placed on the site of this memorial. It does not intrude, it compliments what man and nature had brought together.

With respect to the flag, I would remind you that these men who served in Vietnam, both the living and the dead, were called by their country. When called, they responded, and this flag symbolizes that noble act of citizenship.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you.

Scott C. <sup>Breuer</sup>~~Breder~~.