

salute to Vietnam veterans in November.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you very much.

Next will be Admiral Mark Hill, Naval Aviation Association.

MR. HILL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to testify, and I will do it briefly.

I represent the organization of Naval Aviation Association, the Chairman of which, Admiral Thomas Moore, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was able to get Senator Warner to set up the meeting from which we developed this compromise.

I represent an organization of people who made the greatest contribution in the Vietnam conflict in one service, the U. S. Navy, and that is our Naval Angels. We are all professionals. Whether or not we spend a lifetime in the service or just do obligated service, we are volunteers and professionals. We must be to survive on and off those ships. Everyone of our men, almost without exception, to our pilots was involved in the conflict because of the limitation of the numbers, and easily those who sacrificed as much as those who lived in the prison camps of North Vietnam were largely Naval aviators.

Our initial objection to the memorial was that it indeed was a memorial only to the dead, in between the two greatest living memorials in the world, the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.

So the compromise which is represented here by the very moving statue of the combat soldiers and the flag was important to us. Every Naval aviator is going to leave that ship with one thing in mind, returning and victory. He is dedicated to his country, to his service and to his own Army. Not one living or dead, not one who gave his life or one who sacrificed his life or risked his life did it for the purpose of getting his name on a memorial. He did it for the purpose of keeping that flag flying. And for that purpose, if none other, I can't think of any more important reason than to accept this compromise with the combat soldiers and the flag.

Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you very much.

Next is Major General J. Milnor Roberts, Executive Director of the Reserve Officers Association.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission, on previous occasions I testified before you in support of the original concept which, of course, we would like to see presented.