

veterans shall leave their country in respect for our country's laws, and in obedience to which we served. With that same respect for law and for the institution which has been created by our society to consider matters of public importance, we are confident that this Commission will select the proposal that is most appropriate and aesthetic, and best honors all those who served in Vietnam.

We have examined the three proposals before you and are pleased to endorse Proposal "A", which is the preference of VVMF.

VVMF has brought this project from idea to realization, and their judgment deserves our deference. We find Proposal "A" to be logical, the best for the needs of the handicapped, and the best treatment for all of the elements which comprise the memorial.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our views.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you very much.

Are there any other representatives of organizations that would like to speak?

MR. KORIS: Yes, Combat Veterans of Vietnam.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Very good. Come on up. Would you give your name?

MR. KORIS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission my name is Kenneth Koris, Volunteer Services Coordinator with

the Vietnam Veterans of America.

As a representative of an organization, veterans organization, exclusively devoted to the welfare and interest of the Vietnam veterans, it is indeed my pleasure to be here today. We are pleased to have the opportunity to present our views regarding the proposal, the positioning of the sculpture and placement of the American flag at the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

At your meeting last October we testified in support of the addition of the sculpture and flag, which will complement the quiet dignity that already emanates from the memorial which pays tribute to all who served their country in Vietnam. We were pleased by your ruling accepting these additions

As an organization with chapters in 35 states, and 14,000 members in all states and territories, we can assure you that the memorial itself has been positively received. The good feelings of brotherhood by and for the veterans has proven the memorial as a catalyst, a long overdue recognition by the country at large for those who wore its uniform.

In light of the magnificent week of November 11, 1982, Vietnam veterans of America urges adoption of the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Fund's preferred proposal, scheme "A", for finalizing the total experience of the memorial site. The

Fund's judgement and intuition for the idea, design, and placement of the memorial has been proven correct. Its validation is made self-evident by the overwhelming public reaction to the newest addition to the Constitutional Gardens area. We see scheme "A" as giving maximum prominence to the flag and statute, while preserving the quiet dignity of the site.

For some years now those of us in the Vietnam Veteran Organization have labored for formal recognition honoring those who served in Vietnam. Perhaps now that these men and women have been honored, we as a country can begin to address the tangible needs of the Vietnam veterans brought about as a result of their service. For Vietnam veterans of America, this is the essence of and true poetry for the Vietnam Veteran Memorial.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you very much.

MR. ATHERTON: There is one other gentleman that has indicated he is representing an organization.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Very good. Come forward.

MR. TURNER: My name is Peter Turner, and I represent the Vietnam Vigil Memorial Society. They are the guys out in the cold this winter 24 hours a day.

Unfortunately for you all, I do not have a prepared