

MR. MESSING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am a twice wounded infantry veteran of Vietnam, under Vietnam Veterans for Reagan, a member of the Reserve right now, along with the Reserve Officers Association.

I would just like to quickly pose a couple of things that have been said. I see my son in that statue. That was very poignant. It means a lot to me. Congressman Don Bailey said there is a political message to the memorial, referring to it. These concepts bring tremendous amount of thought in my head that based on time I would just cover one thing. Compromise. Compromise that many of us fought for is being disregarded. It was a five point compromise. One, it talked about the flag; two, it talked about the heroic statue; three, it talked about the location; four, it talked about a dedication date; and, five, talked about the appropriate inscription.

The site's architect, as he did during the compromise meeting, totally ignored what the people in the meeting were saying. I would like to take one opportunity to point out where we feel in the compromise, the majority of the compromise, the people in that meeting feel that that statue should be placed to negate the political statements.

Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of the audience, we

felt that it should be either on the hypotenuse or inside the hypotenuse. Right there. The flag should be at the apex. Anything else would not negate the political statement.

Mr. Chairman, I request that you consider this. I would also like to enter into the record comments by Mr. Paul Gapp, one of the leading architectural critics of the Chicago Tribune, and I would like to distribute it at your table.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you very much.

While he is doing that, we might call on David DeChant -- please correct me if I mispronounce these names -- speaking as an individual Vietnam veteran.

MR. DeCHANT: You did it very well, sir.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I want to thank you for the energies and expertise in guaranteeing that the men and women who served honorably in our Nation's longest war are recognized and honored in a tradition that began with a Revolutionary War, continued through the Civil War, through two World Wars, the Korean War and now, 10 years later, the Vietnam War.

To celebrate the peace, to consecrate this place, softly call the names of those we love, those we sadly and