

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.

At this time, I am representing 125,000 commissioned and warrant officers of all the services, more than half of whom were on duty in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam period. I would like to add our support for the proposed compromise which has been presented so eloquently.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you.

Next is Emogene Cupp, American Gold Star Mothers.

Is Ms. Cupp with us? Someone else representing them?

MS. WILK: Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, my name is Regina Wilk from Silver Spring, Maryland. I am the mother of three Marines who fought in Vietnam. One came home safe and is presently a Captain in the Marine Corps; one came home wounded and is disabled. My third son was killed, thus making me a Gold Star Mother.

I am a past National President of the American Gold Star Mothers, an organization of mothers whose sons and daughters died in line of duty in the Armed Forces. My credentials speak for themselves.

This past July, I spoke to many mothers at our national convention about the memorial, the memory of all who served in Vietnam. There was general praise, both for the