

OCT 28 1982

To Whom This May Concern

10-10-82

I don't think that Viet Nam was a pretty piece of art work. It was hell. I spent 18 months with the 25th Infantry Division in Viet Nam. It was a long hard struggle just to stay alive. I think a statue and a flag are appropriate for the monument. The piece the Chinese girl made is nice but shows nothing of the hardship or pain of war. Which should not be forgotten. War is not pretty. So I think the Viet Nam Vets memorial should have a statue and flag in front of it.

President Viet Nam Vets
of America Illinois Chapter

Blue Island, Illinois

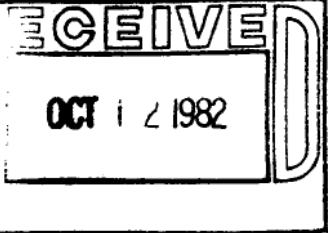
CAMILLE

AUSTIN TX

 **Mailgram**
western union



4-0076338284 10/11/82 ICS IPMMTZZ CSP WSHB
8137465800 MGM TDMT BRADENTON FL 22 10-11 0943A EST



COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
708 JACKSON PL NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON DC 20006

SAVE LIN'S ORIGINAL VIETNAM DESIGN. PROTECT AMERICAN ARTISTIC FREEDOM
CAMILLE

09:43 EST

MGMCOMP

CFV

Oct. 24, 1982

Dear Mr. Brown:

Noting your comments in the Post re the Vietnam memorial you state that "there is a very beautiful monument to the signers of the Declaration....."

To which monument do you refer? And are you talking about TJ's D of I? And where is this monument? I have never heard of such a monument to the signers and wish to see it.

I have often thought that around the base of the Washington Mon. there should be GW's Farewell Address for it can be found noplac in his city today that I know of. Yet while people wait to ascend the Mon. they can read this great statement. Do you not agree?

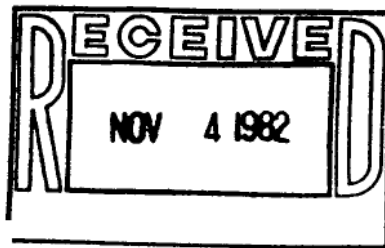
Thank you for this information.

Sincerely,

Joseph

whitesboro, n y

Robert
Greeley, CO



October 10, 1982

To The Commission,

I am writing to protest the proposed alterations to the Vietnam Memorial by, among others, Secretary of the Interior James Watt, to include a flag and statue in front of the memorial.

I should not be done.

Contrary to what some want to believe, the design of the memorial does not belong to the Secretary of the Interior nor the people who donated the money for the memorial nor the disgruntled Vietnam veteran who feels insulted because he and his fellow vets aren't getting a Jack Armstrong he-man symbolism of a memorial such as the one to the Marines who fought and died in Iwo Jima.

The Vietnam Memorial is the product of a single intellect, a single individual, who, with brilliance and personal honesty, designed a tribute to the nobility of those who risked and lost their lives for their country in the Vietnam war. To say that the memorial is no good or should be altered to please the desires of others is an insult to the artistic and personal integrity of the architect and as a backlash sullies the memorial as a symbol of honor as it would be a victim of a person's personal token of honor and respect being subservient to the will of others to satisfy the whim of others. (Which is supposed to be one of the things that American soldiers have fought against, isn't it?)

As someone who believes that the Vietnam veterans should be given the respect and memorial that are their due as soldiers who fought for their country, I would loathe to walk by such a monument if it were so altered because it would be hollow memorial and I would do my level best to communicate my conviction to as many people as I can for as long as I live.

Sincerely,

Robert

SEP 13 1982



Michigan Society of Architects, 553 East Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan 48226, (313) 965-4100

September 9, 1982

J. Carter Brown, Chairman
U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

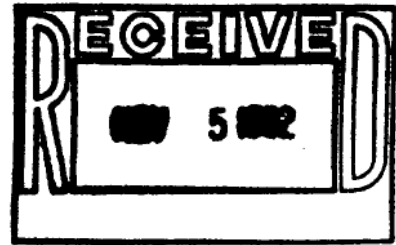
Dear Mr. Brown:

I wish to voice my opposition to any change to
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

A competition was held, the winning entry awarded and the artist congratulated. Any tampering with the results of this process will seriously undermine the integrity of the whole. It is a breach of faith that must not be permitted.

I urge you to proceed with all due promptness

American Veteran Artists



Federal Fine Arts Comm.
707 Jackson Pl.
Washington, D.C.
ATTN: Mr. Charles Atherton

Sir:

The intrinsic duality of this monument "Truly represents Vietnam Veterans". Miss Lin's concept may represent the "Civilian & Media Vietnam Veterans". Mr. F. Hart's concept may represent the "Combat & Other Vietnam Veterans". It's time that both sides, if not embrace, came to grips with the situation.

American Veteran Artists, The National Artistic Chapter of the 16,000 member United Vietnam Veterans Organization, PETITIONS; The Federal Fine Arts Commission, The National Capitol Planning Commission, The Board of Directors of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, & Concerned Others to:

Place Mr. Hart's sculpture "FOREVER TO BE REFLECTING" the polished facade "MEMORIAL TO OUR BROTHERS". The flag also deserves PROMINENT RESPECT.

Despite the active interest of American Veteran Artists in the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial, our distinguished members & friends have had to rely on "LATE BREAKING" local news to keep informed. Our wheels are turning overtime promoting this petition.

REFERENCES

Office of the Mayor
The City of New York
City Hall, New York
Vietnam Monument Commission
ATTN: Mr. Patrick Mulhearn

The New York State Vietnam
Veterans Monument Commission
Office of General Services
Empire State Plaza/Managers Office
Albany, New York 12242
ATTN: Mrs. Joan Whitbeck

This writers prolonged past
correspondence; the Founders &
Board of Directors of the
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

Distinguished members & friends
American Veteran Artists (AVA)
United Vietnam Veterans Organization
(UVVO)

GOD BLESS AMERICA

American Veteran Artists

New York, N.Y. 10001

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ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

→ CFA

October 7, 1980

Mr. J. Carter Brown
Director
National Gallery of Art
Washington, DC 20565


Dear Carter,

I am writing in regard to Frederick Hart's sculpture and the flagpole that proponents wish to erect at the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

These proposed additions to the memorial will be considered by the Fine Arts Commission on October 13. The sculpture is without artistic merit and will be an inappropriate intrusion on the original design. The flagpole will diminish the unifying effect that the memorial achieves with its long walls reaching toward the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.

The sculpture and the flagpole are the results of a compromise forced by Secretary Watt when a small group of detractors claiming to represent the majority of Vietnam veterans and their families took their criticisms of Maya Lin's award winning design to a group of right-wing Congressmen. This group led by Tom Carhart, whose own design entry was rejected by the jurors, did not present its views before the National Capital Planning Commission on December 3, 1981, when Miss Lin's design was approved. Instead a media campaign was immediately launched that sought to discredit not only the design but also the jurors who had chosen it.

Jan Scruggs, President of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and originator of the idea to build the memorial, had the support of hundreds of thousands of Americans who had expressed their approval of the design with their generous contributions. He also was supported by most veterans' groups including the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Vietnam Veterans of America.



Yet in order to break ground for the memorial, Mr. Scruggs was forced to compromise with his critics who represent an extremely small group of people stirred into action by invalid descriptions of the design that remembered the emotional conflicts over the Vietnam war.

The undemocratic methods by which this group of detractors has attempted to force its viewpoints on the public, the undermining of the integrity of the design competition process and the fact that this sculpture and the placement of the flagpole fail to uphold the aesthetic standards set for our national monuments are reasons supporting disapproval of these additions to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

As you know, the name of my husband, whose plane was lost over North Vietnam in 1967, will be among the 57,692 names inscribed on the memorial. It is my hope that Miss Lin's design chosen for its eloquence and simplicity will be allowed to honor in its original form those who served and died in Vietnam.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Phyllis

KENNETH I

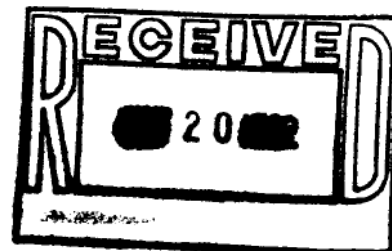
MILWAUKEE WI

 **Mailgram**
western union



4-012323S283 10/10/82 ICS IPMBNGZ CSP WSHB
4149626999 MGM TDBN KENNETH STEPMAN 38 10-10 0754P EST

WASHINGTON FINE ARTS COMMISSION
708 JACKSON PL NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON DC 20013



SUBJECT VIETNAM MEMORIAL,

WASHINGTON, DC KINDLY LEAVE MS LINN'S SENSITIVE DESIGN ALONE. NO
CHANGES, NO ADDITIONS.

KENNETH

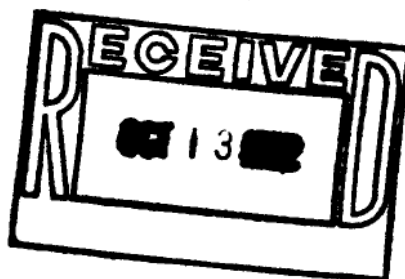
19:55 EST

MGMCOMP

10
Washington Fine Arts Commission
Re: Viet Nam Veterans
Memorial

1302-22nd Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20
October 8, 1982

Ms. Maia Lin
Yale School of Architecture
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut



Dear Ms. Lin:

60 Minutes is really one of my least favorite programs on television yet the segment tonight provoked me in such a way that I thought a letter might be important.

As one has begun to notice Democracies are not always the great vehicles for creativity, especially when ones project, as yours, is judged, praised, or scorned by a Quorum vote then through ultimate dilution is melted down to appease the most violent of factions, the result-majority consent or something.

I have a small and as yet, not very successful art gallery representing 19th century European and American painting in Alexandria. Art, design, and honesty of execution are about the most important concepts to me in this crazy world which one can still call his own. Your design need not be one judged on praise or scorn, it is yours and any tampering of it through the time art of "Washington lobbying" is in my mind artistically taboo.

One must never forget, and being one of the Conservatives at that time, and now, it might sound more effective... one must never forget the full meaning of the VIET NAM WAR.. it was not like any other war this country has experienced.. it ripped us apart socially, politically, it quashed our pride, it taught us many things about our selves.... a monument to its men can not honestly stand for valour, for honour, alone, it cannot stand for any of the mundane, too explicit concepts represented in the "statue" proposed, a statue which means confusion to any bright person observing the design as a whole.

Confusion is what that time was all about.

Your design is bold in its understatement, violent in its calmity and above all pure in its design pure in that Maia Lin and only Maia Lin designed it.

Heres hoping the the Washington Fine Arts Commision is as bold and as violent in standing up for the true meaning of art rather than rubber stamping our all too diluted Democratic taste

Perhaps Innocent[?] might have beaten Michelangelo until he properly dressed "God in the last judgement"

We shall all await your future endeavor with great hope and pride.

c.c. Washington Fine Arts Comm.

Sincerely,
BLAKE

Dear Friends: I heard you were going to decide when the statue was to be placed at the Vietnam Memorial. I gave money for the Memorial so I feel I should have an opportunity to "speak my piece".

Put it quite a distance from the "slash" but put it facing the names of deceased which are inscribed on the wall. Surely you shouldnt put the statue of soldiers with their backs to the wall. That would be the final insult. I wonder why you should decide on the matter? Demagogue you are politicians and not artists.

JANE
NEW YORK NY

AND BRUCE

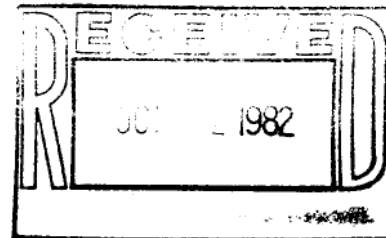
western union

Mailgram



4-049813S284 10/11/82 ICS IPMMTZZ CSP WSHB
2123552688 MGM TDMT NEW YORK NY 63 10-11 1105P EST

WASHINGTON FINE ARTS COMMISSION
708 JACKSON PL NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON DC 20006



IT IS OUTRAGEOUS THAT ANYONE WOULD EVEN THINK OF BENDING THE RULES TO
DESECRATE THE BEAUTIFUL ORIGINAL DESIGN OF THE VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL.
THE ADDITION OF A STATUE AND FLAG WOULD BE A CONSTANT REMINDER OF THE
DISGRACEFUL WAY IN WHICH THE DEMOCRATIC CONTEST RULES WERE BROKEN.
JANE AND BRUCE

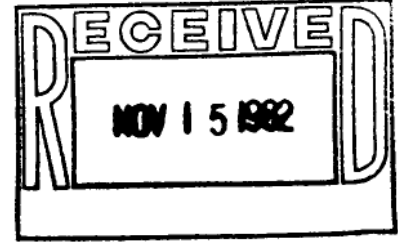
23:06 EST

MGMCOMP

Senate

Art & Design
Architecture
Engineering
Liberal Studies
Independent Programs

SGA
of Pratt Institute
Chapel Hall
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11205
(212) 636-3749



Executive Committees

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J. Carter Brown
Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Nov. 4, 1982

Dear Mr. Brown,

As active members of the artistic community, and students of the design profession, we feel a responsibility to voice our opposition to the approved additions to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

We do not criticize any beliefs of the actual War Veterans, Veteran organizations, or American Citizens regarding how our military and humanistic involvement in Vietnam should be memorialized. To be certain, we, the undersigned, possess varied personal convictions, and can sympathize with the sound, moral logic of those people confronting Maya Ying Lin's original design.

But there is no single, correct solution to the dilemma of representing the complexity of Vietnam within a single, correct monument. Ms. Lin's design was originally praised for avoiding the specific symbolism that characterized many other entries. We feel you have destroyed this idealism with the inclusion of Fredrick Hart's literal sculpture, and that the integrity of Ms. Lin's concept has been severely branded.

As designers, we accept the reality of adapting our ideas for the public, but not such a shameless compromise as you have forced upon Ms. Lin. By "altering" the design criterion after the final decision was set down, you have smothered the courage of your selection process, violating the integrity of the entire design community, as well as your own.

Perhaps you can address these issues within your response to our objections.

Sincerely,

Senate Committee

Political and Social Committee
Grievance Committee
Membership Committee
Ad Hoc Committee

SEP 20 1982

Cambridge, MA

September 20, 1982

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.
1110 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Suite 308
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Sirs:

I disapprove of the proposed additions to the original design. Not only is each additional element unnecessary in and of itself, but more importantly these "enhancements" violate the original concept.

The individual elements have been proposed to give the Memorial a patriotism and humanism that is supposedly lacking. In such a setting as Constitution Gardens, with the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument interacting in a fundamental way with the placement of the Memorial, is a further display of patriotism needed? And as each person enters the Memorial, seeing his face reflected amongst the names, can the human element escape him? Surely seeing himself and the surroundings reflected within the Memorial is a more moving and personal experience than any one artist's figurative or allegorical interpretation could engender.

The concept of an eloquent place where the simple meeting of earth, sky and remembered names contain messages for all who will know this place, needs no embellishment. The attempt of the Board to combine two works of art of different stylistic and conceptual intention expecting to achieve one harmonious memorial is unrealistic in this case. The additions which treat the original work of art as no more than an architectural backdrop reflect an insensitivity to the design's subtle spacial eloquence. Its use as a retaining wall in the presence of sculpture and flag desecrates the design's artistic integrity. The verticality of the flagpole (which from any angle within the boundaries of the wall will appear to rise out of the apex) is totally out of character with the sweeping horizontality of the Memorial. Furthermore the visual axis

connecting sculpture and flag splits the Memorial at its focal point, the point where it joins in concept. This intrusion rips apart this meeting of names, beginning and end, and destroys the meaning of the design:

Very truly yours,

Māya

cc: Secretary of the Interior
Commission of Fine Arts ✓
National Capital Planning Commission

members.

R

LONG BEACH CA

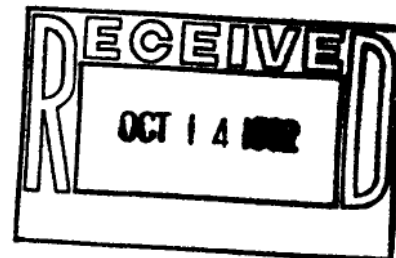


Mailgram



4-0144058283 10/10/82 ICS IPMRNCZ CSP WSHB
2134986052 MGM TDRN LONG BEACH CA 73 10-10 1057P EST

WASHINGTON FINE ARTS COMMISSION CARE US
GOVERNMENT
708 JACKSON PLACE NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON DC 20013



AS A CONCERNED AND CONSCIENTIOUS CITIZEN, I FIND IT APPALLING AND
ABHORRENT THAT YOU CONSIDER MODIFYING THE DESIGN OF THE VETERAN'S
MONUMENT. DON'T DO IT. YOU PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON SEEM TO CAUSE SO MANY
TRAVESTIES--TO DISTURB THE DIGNITY OF THIS MONUMENT IS ONLY ANOTHER
EXAMPLE OF INSENSITIVITY AND INCOMPETENCE.

ROBERTA

LONG BEACH CA

22:58 EST

MGMCOMP

W.

Riverside, Ct.

file

Mr Reginald W. Griffith
Executive Director
National Capitol Planning Commission
1325 "G" Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20576

Dear Mr Griffith:

As a Viet-Nam combat veteran I have followed with interest the developments for a proposed Viet-Nam Veterans' Memorial in Washington, D. C. It was a pleasure to note how well the national design competition for the memorial was conducted. The resulting award to Maya Ying Lin for her memorial design was an admirable selection. It reflected a deep sensitivity for the memorial's meaning and a true concern for quality design.

Recent suggestions by third parties, if included, will denigrate the lasting meaning of the memorial and ruin the design. The memorial's design requires no further modification either by adding a flagpole and statuary or by deleting any of the basic elements of the original design; structure, siting, landscape or other.

Please do not permit or approve any of these proposed, third party changes in Ms Lin's design of the Viet-Nam Veterans' Memorial. Her design stands on its own merits for those Americans who died and fought in Viet-Nam -- it needs no further embellishments.

Thank you for your consideration

Cordially

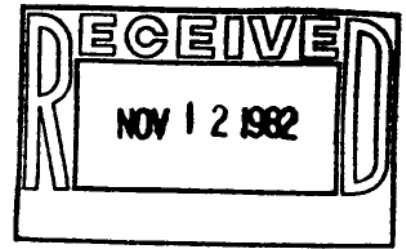
W.

Copies to: Honorable James G. Watt
Secretary of the Interior

✓ Mr Carter Brown
Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts

LONG HOEFT ARCHITECTS

1228 Fifteenth Street Suite 401
Denver, Colorado 80202
303 893-9516



November 9, 1982

Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

I am writing this letter to express my concern regarding Maya Ying Lin's design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Please, please do not modify this simple and yet very profound memorial as designed by Ms. Lin. It needs no help in expressing the inexpressible.

Sincerely,

DONALD

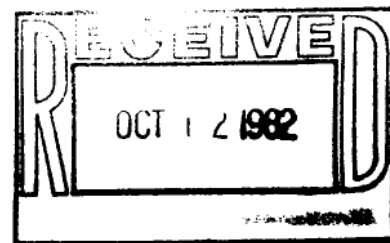
OLYMPIA WA



Mailgram



4-021733S284 10/11/82 ICS IPMMTZZ CSP WSHB
2068660308 MGM TDMT OLYMPIA WA 55 10-11 0106P EST



WASHINGTON ARTS COMMISSION
J CARTER BROWN, CHAIRMAN
708 JACKSON PLACE NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON DC 20006

WE SAW 60 MINUTES SUNDAY NIGHT AND STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY VIOLATION OF
MS LYN'S BRILLIANT MEMORIAL TO OUR VIETNAM VIETS. PLEASE STAND UP FOR
ART AND TO SECRETARY WATT
DONALD COFER

OLYMPIA WA

13:07 EST

MGMCOMP



Tulsa Okla.
Oct 7-82

Comm. of Fine Arts:
Wash. D.C.

Sir: This is written to protest vigorously against the Figure of Sculpture as shown on NBC TV Oct 6-82 - to be placed as part of the Vietnam Vets Memorial. The Granite Wall with Veterans names engraved is fine - but not that dejected disgraceful piece of humanity supposed to represent our Fighting Soldiers.

Regardless of how useless some feel about that war - it is dishonourable to portray our fighting men as that figure did. A Monument should show Honor and Respect for these Brave Men, who were obeying orders and doing their Patriotic Duty in honor not ashamed and disgraced.

Please do NOT let that Monument be erected!

(Signed)

Lena

Tulsa, Okla.

494 Jefferson Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
Tel: 415/775-5757 • Cable ALEXISTEL • Telex 470719

DEC 15 1982

October 5, 1982

Chairman
Fine Arts Commission
United States of America
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

As the brother of Army Captain Andrew Tellis, killed in the Vietnam War, I noted with dismay the "three person sculpture" proposed as an adjunct to the elegant memorial which is currently planned. Since Andrew cannot speak for himself, let me ask you, in his name, to preserve the integrity of that memorial.

Three statues of healthy looking living boys simply do not seem appropriate. One might consider, although I would not suggest, a statue of three dismembered bodies as a far more accurate tribute to this recent outrage.

It is my belief that the memorial should pay respect to those whose lives were taken and not to the politicians, clerics and bureaucrats who sent them to their death.

Respectfully yours,



Telegram

WDB077(1407)(4-034282S285)PD 10/12/82 1406

1982 OCT 12 PM 3:13

ICS IPMPN07 CSP

2134855073 TDRN LOS ANGELES CA 50 10-12 0206P EST

PMS THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS RPT DLY MCM, DLR

708 JACKSON PL NORTHWEST

WASHINGTON DC 20006

REGARDING THE VIETNAM VETERANS WAR MEMORIAL

DON'T RUIN THE BEAUTIFULL MEMORIAL DESIGN BY PLACING SCULPTURE AND
FLAGPOLE IN THE APEX OF THE DESIGN. PLACE IT AWAY FROM THE MEMORIAL.
HAVE THE GUTS TO STAND UP TO SECRETARY WATT AND OTHER DEMEANING
CRITICS. SAVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE ORIGINAL DESIGN COMPETITION.

CALVIN

LOS ANGELES CA

W.U. 1201-SF (R5-69)



Telegram

WDB012(1027)(4-016521S286)PD 10/13/82 1025

1982 OCT 13 AM 11:49

ICS IPMBN02 CSP

6053361167 TDBN SIOUX FALLS SD 37 10-13 1025A EST

PMS THE COMMISSIONER OF FINE ARTS, DLR ASAP RPT DLY MCM, FONE

2025661066 IMMY & DLR, DLR

708 JACKSON PL NORTHWEST

WASHINGTON DC 20006

THE "ADDITIONS" TO THE VIET NAM MEMORIAL SCULPTURE ARE LUDICROUS. THE
ORIGINAL DESIGN FOR THE MEMORIAL IS A 20TH CENTURY MASTERPIECE AND A
MOST FITTING MEMORIAL TO THIS HEROIC GROUP OF VETERANS.

RAYMOND

SIOUX FALLS SD

NNNN

W.U. 1201-SF (R5-69)



Telegram

WDA070(1235)(4-026058S235)PD 10/12/82 1234

ICS IPMRVZ CSP

1982 OCT 12 PM 1:30

4159563952 TDR: SAN FRANCISCO CA 45 10-12 1234P EST

FMS WASHINGTON ART COMMISSION RPT DLY MGM, DLR

708 JACKSON PL NORTHWEST

WASHINGTON DC 20006

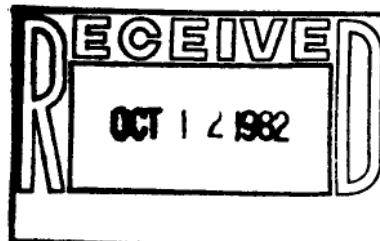
RE: VIET NAM WAR MEMORIAL

AS A VIET NAM ERA VETERAN I FEEL THE VIET NAM WAR MEMORIAL DESIGNED
SHOULD NOT BE ALTERED. THE ADDITION OF THE PROPOSED STATUE ONLY
DETRACTS FROM THE DQUIET DIGNITY OF THIS MEMORIAL TO THOSE WHO DIED
IN THE CONFLICT.

JOHN

SAN FRANCISCO CA

NNNN



W.U. 1201-SF (R5-69)



Telegram

WBA088(1143)(4-221693S285)PD 12/12/82 1143

ICS IPYBNGZ CSP

2163458343 TDR: WOOSTER OH 17 12-12 1143A EST

FMS WASHINGTON FINE ARTS COMMISSION, ATTN: CHARLES H ATHERTON, DLR

3127 NEWARK STREET

WASHINGTON DC 20028

RE: THE VIETNAM VETS MEMORIAL

PLEASE DO NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY JAMES WATT AND HIS MONEYED MINORITY.

JEANNE

W.U. 1201-SF (R5-69)



Telegram

WFA094(1852)(1-225679A283)PD 10/10/82 1851

ICS IPMWGWC WSH

33491 13-10 2745P EST

ICS IPMWF08

4-011279S283 12/12/82

ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

193266428 IDEN DAVENPORT IA 10 10-10 0642P EST

PMS THE DIRECTOR OF WASHINGTON FINE ARTS COUNCIL , DLR
WASHINGTON DC

NO STATUE AND/OR FLAG IN FRONT OF VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL.

BILL

DAVENPORT IA

1846 EST

NNNN

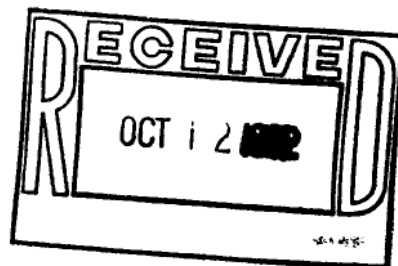
W.U. 1201-SF (R5-69)

~~RI NO PHONE~~

4681200 1982 OCT 10 PM 7:52

F 235 2840

Address



Telegram

WDA071(1241)(4-025535S285)PD 10/12/82 1240

1982 OCT 12 PM 2:21

ICS IPMRNCZ CSP

4153624310 TDRN SAN FRANCISCO CA 20 10-12 1240P EST

PMS WASHINGTON COMMISSION OF FINE ART RPT DLY MGM, DELIVER ASAP DO
NOT

FONE, DLR

703 JACKSON PL NORTHWEST

WASHINGTON DC 20006

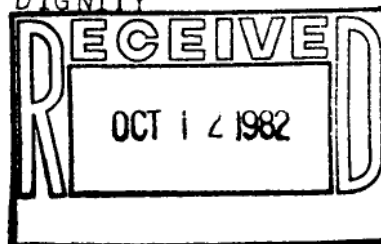
ADDITION OF GROUP STATUTE TO EXISTING MEMORIAL WOULD BE AN APPALLING
ACT OF DESTRUCTION TO A MASTERPIECE OF QUIET DIGNITY

NANCY

SAN FRANCISCO CA

NNNN

W.U. 1201-SF (R5-69)



American Veteran Artists

THE AMERICAN VETERAN IS STILL FIGHTING TO WIN "HEARTS & MINDS"

A question often asked in these difficult times, when the subject of Vietnam Memorials arises is: Sure the Vets deserve a memorial, but isn't it more important to fund a project dealing with Agent Orange or Education and Employment?

The individual that asks this question often loses sight of one fact; a memorial as a symbol is almost as important as the flag of a nation. Surely it wouldn't be suggested that the manufacture of our nation's flag cease because we have fallen on difficult times. If anything, a nation needs a renewal of its patriotic and spiritual fervor MOST when it can financially afford it LEAST.

A memorial is a tangible recognition of the sacrifice of Flesh & Blood already turned to dust. As such it resurrects the dust and turns it into a timeless vehicle capable of inspiring a renewal of ideals, ethics, and constructive spiritual evolution. It has a power - it gives additional strength to one who already possesses it and strengthens those who need to know the truth. It will do nothing for those who plead ignorance or exercise cowardice, except send them scurrying about to find new ways and reasons to act irresponsibly.

Ours is a strong nation, one based on an inspired truth called the CONSTITUTION. The inheritors of this gift to all humanity are those Americans who have fought and died and those who continue living and dying to preserve the simplicity and truth of our inherited gift. Symbols, Words, Blood, Sweat, and yes - Tears, deserve a righteous recognition.

American Veteran Artists

The Penthouse • 601 West 26th Street • New York, N.Y. 10001 • (212) CHelsea 3-7722



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If in fact it is the duty of a friend to help make a friend stronger, than it is the duty of the Vietnam Veteran to help make his country stronger. Memorials by and for Vietnam Veterans can serve as foundations for the renewal of the gift that made America Great - but only for those who open their Hearts & Minds to their message. The callouses on the spirit (Ignorance & Cowardice) can destroy the gift of our forefathers and with it a blessed nation.

American Veteran Artists (AVA), is in the forefront of this struggle against indifference and misinformation. The character of America is what we struggle to preserve. American Veteran Artists were point men in war and are point men in peace. Our adversary, then as now is capable of ambush and destruction, deceit and dissension. Our losses may be heavy and unheralded but still, there is always the volunteer who, despite the jungle of misinformation, manipulation and out and out lies, BOLDLY walks point.

American Veteran Artists actively support spirit saving monuments and memorials. We believe that more than being a sign of respect for a generations sacrifice, they serve as a reminder to this nation and the world that America can learn from its mistakes because ITS VETERANS ARE ITS TEACHERS.



Telegram

WJAO55(1034)(1-004837A284)PD 10/11/82 1982 OCT 11 AM 11:39

ICS IPMWGWC WSH

03341 10-11 1127A EST

ICS IPMWJ08

4-009832S284 10/11/82

ICS IPMRNCZ CSP

4084633188 TDRN SAN JOSE CA 33 10-11 1015A EST

PMS FINE ARTS COMMISSION RPT DLY MGM

CARE PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

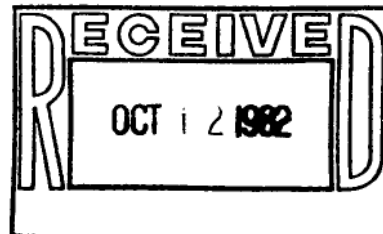
WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON DC 20500

SIR, RVN WITH DIGNITY 9/68 TO 8/69, A 1/9 USMC. HAVE HEART AND
NAVCOM. PROUD OF BOTH. DO NOT DESTROY VIET WAR MEMORIAL. NO STATUE,
NO FLAGS. LET IT SERVE WITH QUIET DIGNITY.

JOHN

W.U. 1201-SF (R5-69)



Telegram

WFA097(2006)(1-005980A283)PD 10/10/82 2006

ICS IPMWGWC WSH

03931 10-10 0901P EST

ICS IPMWF08

4-212333S283 10/10/82

ICS IPMTZZ CSP

2159252105 TDMT PHILADELPHIA PA 16 10-10 0755P EST

PMS WASHINGTON FINE ARTS COMMISSION RPT DLY MGM, DLR
WASHINGTON DC

REGARDING VIETNAM MEMORIAL MUST USE ORIGINAL WINNING STRUCTURE ONLY.
STATUE WITH RUIN DESIGN AND WHOLE AREA.

HELEN

PHILADELPHIA PA

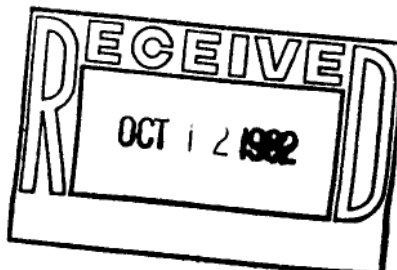
1958 EST

W.U. 1201-SF (R5-69)

RI NO PHONE

F 235-2840

ADDRESS





Telegram

WDA014(1245)(4-020143S234)PD 10/11/32 1245

1982 OCT 11 PM 2:35

ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

6156907875 TDBN KNOXVILLE TN 10 10-11 1245P EST

FMS DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMISSION ON ARTS AND HUMANITIES RPT DLY MGM
COPY MESSAGE, FONE 708 JACKSON PL NW

4012X14X87XNORHWES7X80X7E>X203

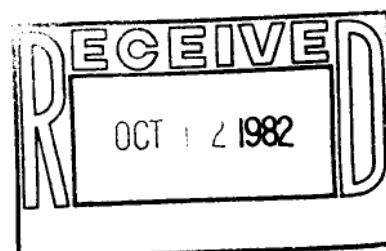
WASHINGTON DC 20005

PLEASE DROP THE COMIC BOOK STATUE FROM THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL.

DAVID

KNOXVILLE TN

NNIN



W.U. 1201-SF (R6-69)



Telegram

WDA003(0316)(4-003201S234)PD 10/11/82 0315

1982 OCT 11 AM 9:26

ICS I PMB NGZ CSP

6144862655 TDBN COLUMBUS OH 32 10-11 0815A EST

FMS COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS OF WASHINGTON, DLR

708 JACKSON PL NORTHWEST

WASHINGTON DC 20006

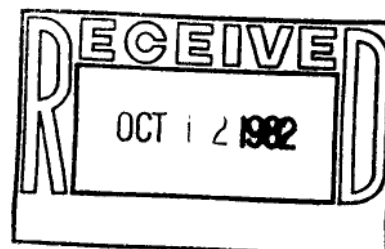
ATTENTION CHAIRPERSON

IN MY OPINION YOU HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO HONOR THE ORIGINAL
DESIGN OF THE VIET NAM VETS MEMORIAL NO STATUES NO FLAG INSCRIPTION
NECESSARY

MARK

COLUMBUS OH

NNIN



W.U. 1201-SF (R6-69)



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
1857 • 1982 The First 125 Years

Robert M. Lawrence, FAIA
President

October 20, 1982

Mr. J. Carter Brown
Chairman
Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Brown:

I appreciated the opportunity to appear last Wednesday before the Fine Arts Commission to offer testimony on the proposed additions to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The conduct of that meeting set a high standard for public discussion of design issues and enabled those in attendance, as well as the general public, to better understand the question before your Commission.

I would like you to know that The American Institute of Architects supports the action of the Fine Arts Commission in rejecting the "compromise" plan for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial as proposed by the Secretary of the Interior. We fully support the Commission's recommendation to locate the statue, flagpole and directory as part of a new, carefully conceived site plan at the southwest end of the memorial site.

The Fine Arts Commission has provided the public, through an open forum, the opportunity to participate in a decision-making process that at last offers a solution which sensitively addresses the concerns of all. By recommending a complete separation of the disparate design elements, the Commission has preserved the integrity of Maya Lin's award-winning design. An admirable balance has thus been struck between a recognition of service and comradeship as well as an acknowledgement of sacrifice.

Together with you, we look forward to this November and the dedication of this country's memorial to those who served in Vietnam.

Sincerely,

SUSAN

PLAINFIELD NJ

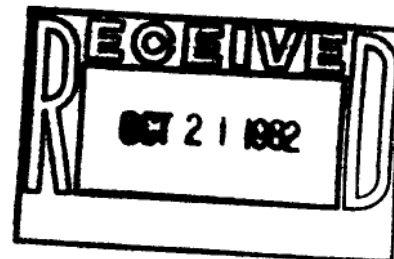


Mailgram



4-012349S283 10/10/82 ICS IPMMTZZ CSP WSHB
2017548147 MGM TDMT PLAINFIELD NJ 57 10-10 0756P EST

J CARTER BROWN
FINE ARTS COMMISSION
708 JACKSON PL NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON DC 20006



THE VIET NAM MEMORIAL MUST REMAIN AS DESIGNED AND WON THROUGH FAIR
COMPETITION. ALL SUGGESTED CHANGES DEFACE A REVERENT AND HONORABLE
DESIGN. THEY FURTHER REFLECT AN ATTITUDE OF RACISM AND POWER THROUGH
MONEY. PRESERVE ARTISTIC FREEDOM
SUSAN

PLAINFIELD NJ

19:57 EST

MGMCOMP

**OBERLIN COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ART
OBERLIN, OHIO 44074**

October 8, 1982

Dear Mr. Brown:

As an experienced professional in the field of public sculpture, I would like to state my opinion about the Vietnam Memorial in support of Ms. Lin's design. I submitted a proposal to that competition too, and although I have won a number of competitions before, I gladly accepted my failure in this case, as I believe Ms. Lin's design is superior to mine.

The Vietnam Memorial competition was the most impeccably and professionally run of any I have participated in (and they are numerous indeed). It is a pity to let the result of it be spoiled by the illegal (according to the rules of the competition) interference of a few traditionally-minded members of the V.V. Memorial fund. This case can not only harm Ms. Lin's proposal, but it may set a precedent of interference with the artist's freedom and preset rules of competitions (who would want to participate in future competitions, if this is allowed to happen?).

I strongly feel that any figurative piece of sculpture, even the most well done, would spoil the intention and effect of Ms. Lin's idea. I would dare to say that it is a genial idea, as it combines grandeur, mourning, dignity and humbleness -- which is necessary for a unique war such as Vietnam. Moreover, the form of the monument is a beautiful complement, in horizontal position, to the nearby obelisk of the Washington memorial. I really believe, like the N.Y. Times critic, Paul Goldberger, that your committee should not allow to get spoiled what "could be one of the most important works of contemporary architecture in official Washington".

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Carter Brown, Chairman
Fine Arts Commission
Washington DC

Copy: Ms. Maya Yang Lin

LAWRENCE

ANN ARBOR MI

western union

Mailgram



4-0116368283 10/10/82 ICS IPMBNGZ CSP WSHB
3137694047 MGM TDBN ANN ARBOR MI 63 10-10 0707P EST

WASHINGTON FINE ARTS COMMISSION
JACKSON PL NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON DC 20006

A PURE AND ELEGANT TRIBUTE SELECTED IN A PRISTINE, BLIND COMPETITION
VERSUS A SELF-APPOINTED, BLUSTERING, THREATENING, EASY-MONEY TEXAS
MILLIONAIRE. YOUR TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO DIED IN VIETNAM IS TO VOTE OUT
OF CONSCIENCE AND DUTY, NOT FEAR. WHAT COUNTRY DID THEY DIE FOR,
ANYWAY?

LAWRENCE

ANN ARBOR MI

19:08 EST

MGMCOMP

LANE HEARD
HILL BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

Dear Sir:

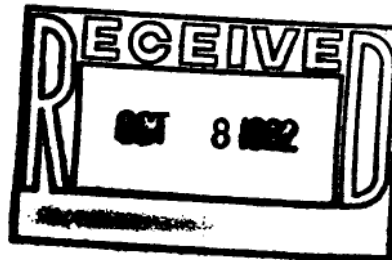
Although I have written before, I feel compelled to write again at this juncture, so strong is my outrage at the apparent likelihood that Maya Lin's elegant memorial will be trivialized by the addition of statue and flag.

As an attorney, I am outraged that the results of a fairly conducted design competition should be subverted by the losers. As a citizen, I am outraged at the brazen power politics of Ross Perot and James Watt. But principally, I am outraged that a conception so timeless in its beauty should be dated by additions that simply reflect this moment's political anxiety.

My profession instructs me to be cynical -- still I hope that the Fine Arts Commission, under your leadership, will fulfill its mandate: courageously to preserve for the future the elegant simplicity of the original design, which will speak eloquently to ages to come.

Yours truly,

Copy in Linda's unit
John



To whom it may concern :

I was watching the news one afternoon and have taken an interest in the Vietnam War Memorial. I feel the modern memorial is very appropriate . The structure and sculpture are a view of the people in the 21st century , not the 18th century. I cast a YES vote for the completion of the war memorial .

Sincerely

J

COLUMBIA MD



Mailgram



4-030627S285 10/12/82 ICS IPMMTZZ CSP WSHB
3015966206 MGM TDMT COLUMBIA MD 50 10-12 0127P EST

FINE ARTS COMMISSION
708 JACKSON PL
WASHINGTON DC 20006

DEAR SIRs

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE PROPOSED "REDESIGN" OF V.V.M. THE CHANGES TO THE COMPETITION DESIGN SHOULD BE ONLY FOR REASONS OF FUNCTION, BUDGET AND/OR BUILDING CODE; NOT DUE TO PUBLIC OPINION OR AESTHETICS.

JOHN
COLUMBIA MD

JOHN

TOLEDO OH



Mailgram



4-008638S285 10/12/82 ICS IPMBNGZ CSP WSHB
4192484071 MGM TDBN TOLEDO OH 69 10-12 0854A EST

FINE ARTS COUNCIL
708 JACKSON PLACE NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON DC 20006

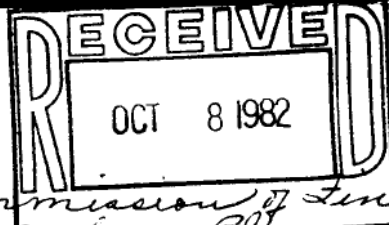
DEAR SIR/MADAAM,

IN REGARDS TO THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL, I FEEL THAT SIMPLICITY EMPHASIZES THE GREAT SACRAFICE. PLEASE LEAVE THE STATUE OUT OF THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL AS IT WOULD COVER UP THE MESSAGE. PLEASE ALSO NOTE THERE ARE NO OTHER STATUES ANYWHERE IN THAT AREA AND THIS MIGHT START A TREND.

SINCERELY,
JOHN

TOLEDO OH

08-55 EST



Tulsa, OK.
10-6-82

Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place

Washington, D. C. 20006

This is to let you know that I do not care for the Memorial that is planned to honor the American Servicemen who gave their lives in the Vietnamese War.

It would in no way go with or blend in with the Washington Monument, the Lincoln or Jefferson Memorials. In fact as we saw it pictured on the News today, we would not go out of our way to look at it, and we have been to Washington and enjoyed it very much.

My husband & I agree that a Garden or Park, including plaques with the names of the honored dead would be a living memorial to the deceased. It would be a place where visitors to Washington, D. C. could rest and relax while sight seeing.

Just about anything would be more acceptable than two walls that would collect trash & papers as it would do -
Respectfully submitted

MAILGRAM SERVICE CENTER
MIDDLETOWN, VA. 22645

 Mailgram
western union



1-023540A285 10/12/82 ICS IPMMOZC MTN WSHA
00964 4149626999 MGM TDBN MILWAUKEE WI 38 10-10 0754P EST

WASHINGTON FINE ARTS COMMISSION
708 JACKSON PL NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON DC 20013

DUPLICATE AND CORRECTED COPY OF 4-0123238283 10-10 0754P EST
SUBJECT VIET NAM MEMORIAL,

WASHINGTON, DC KINDLY LEAVE MS LINN'S SENSITIVE DESIGN ALONE; NO
CHANGES, NO ADDITIONS.
KENNETH

10:5A EST

CHIPS

KENSINGTON MD

 Mailgram
western union



4-0179558285 10/12/82 ICS IPMMTZZ CSP WSHB
3018399847 MGM TDMT OXON HILL MD 86 10-12 1056A EST

FINE ARTS COMMISSION
708 JACKSON PL
WASHINGTON DC 20006

MY BELIEF IS STRENGTHENED AFTER VIEWING THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL THAT THE
ORIGINAL FORM AND ITS GROUNDS MUST NOT BE ALTERED. VISITORS MUST NOT
BE DENIED THE EXPERIENCES WHICH THE MEMORIAL WILL EVOKE. A GROUND
LEVEL TABLET MAY BE ACCEPTABLE, BUT A STATUE AND A FLAG WILL DETRACT
FROM AND INFUSE THE THOUGHT PROVOKING NATURE OF THIS MEMORIAL.
WASHINGTON DOES NOT NEED ANOTHER NEUTERED STATUE WITHIN SIGHT OF THE
MEMORIAL

CHIPS

KENSINGTON MD

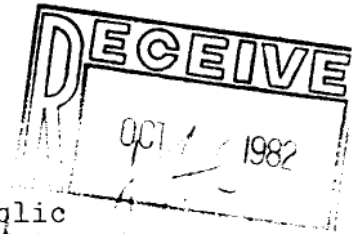
10:57 EST

James

Washington, DC

October 9, 1982

Fine Arts Commission
708 Jackson Pl. N.W.
Washington, DC 20006



Dear Members of the Fine Arts Commission:

Although I will be unable to attend in person your public hearing on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, I would like to express my opinion in writing for your consideration.

For the record, I am not affiliated in any way with any of the groups involved in this matter (so far as I know). I might also add that I have been a resident of Washington for only seven weeks, having just moved here from Billings, Montana, to start work on a Ph.D. degree in American Studies at George Washington University.

My feeling is that the Vietnam Veterans Memorial should be left as originally designed by Maya Yang Lin. I base this feeling on the visits I have made to the Memorial: unofficial visits, of course, with my views limited to what I could see through the fence surrounding the construction site.

During those visits, I was surprised by what I saw. From what I had read in the newspapers, I had expected to be unimpressed by the simple black walls. Instead, I was awe-struck; I found the Memorial to be haunting and chilling; and I suspect that these feelings would only be magnified and made more intense by getting closer to the Memorial and standing inside the "V".

To be sure, I am easily moved by the monuments in Washington. My eyes water when I stand inside the Lincoln Memorial. And my throat gets dry when I look at the Marines raising the flag at the Iwo Jima Memorial.

Maya Yang Lin's design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial moves me in the same way. And I believe that, if this original design is retained, future visitors to the Memorial will be inclined to agree: that it is a powerful and awe-inspiring memorial to the Americans who lost their lives in Vietnam. The Memorial seems to me to need no further elaboration -- no statues, no flagpoles. The names and names and names speak for themselves.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my opinion on this matter.

Sincerely,

James

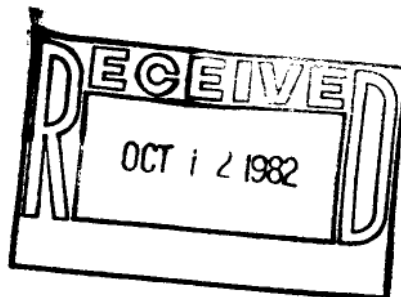
Oct. 6 82

To Whom: It may concern:

We Heard on the News About the Vitnam Memorial
I have two BOYS Went to the war which was not
Declared They came back alive Thank the Lord
What all they went through Alive came Home
My heart goes out to those Boys who made it
That Memorial Should be for the. back
ones who made it back A Real Welcome Home
I could say A lot if I Had been there I
Would of back out My heart goes out to
All the BOYS DEAD OR ALIVE
NEED A MEMORIAL

DONALD

Tulsa Okla



Subject: Viet Nam War Memorial October 2, 1982

I strongly urge your committee to approve the addition of sculptor Frederick Hart's sculpture to that of Fink's design. The veterans of Viet Nam want a memorial that speaks to a crossage of people make them feel & remember the men who served. This should not be just an art trap for the artist. It is on public lands & should be something the public will respond to. Let's have common sense instead of an object of ridicule. Viet Nam Veterans need no more ridicule!

Richard

Dear Mr. Brown
I've just finished your commentary in this morning's Post. Please tell me why in God's name none would listen to us when so many of us pointed out the problem of people wanting to locate the names of their loved ones. Who was responsible for such a stupid decision & why did none of you voice your opposition. Now it's too late.

Sincerely

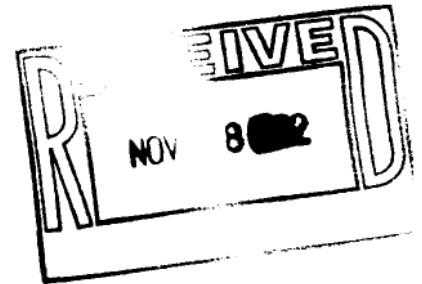
J.S.

Bethesda MD.



Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Troy, New York 12181

15 October 1982



The Editor
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20071

Dear Sir:

Re: Vietnam Veterans Memorial

It is time for professionals in general to speak out in a concerted effort to save the Vietnam Veterans Memorial from becoming an internationally recognized farce. America's current leadership in the Arts, especially Architecture, may suffer a severe loss of credibility if this delicate issue is not brought to a solution worthy of our heritage, our creativity and our national optimism.

As one of the 1420 competition entrants I was excited not only by the vision of the organizers and the care with which their adviser, Mr. Paul Spreirigen, FALA, prepared the rules, but by the outstanding quality of the eminent jury members. Here, I felt, was a competition which could produce a work worthy to stand with the memorials to Washington, Lincoln and Jefferson.

I worked hard and produced an excellent solution. Yet when I reviewed all entries in the great hangar at Andrews Air Force Base, I had not the slightest doubt that the winning design was so clearly superior to all others that I easily overcame my personal disappointment. I sought out the young winner, Maya Lin, to congratulate her on a most wonderful and poetic solution. I am not easily given to public outbursts but I felt like cheering at such an excellent result.

On meeting Ms. Lin I found her brilliance matched only by a genuine modesty at her remarkable achievement. Rather than dwell on her own work, she was anxious to discuss the entries of the other architects.

Washington Post

15 October 1982

A slightly distressing incident occurred when a small group of established architects could be heard grumbling openly at the jury's decision. I put that down to professional immaturity on their part, a clear contrast to the quiet maturity of the youthful Ms. Lin, and indeed of her work.

My comments on the quality of the work should be weighed in the light of my own experience of some thirty years in the United States and in Europe. I have been successful in international and national architectural competitions in three countries, and have followed every major competition since 1952 with avid interest. You can understand therefore that I do not lightly consider the Vietnam Veterans Memorial jury's decision to be one of the most clearly successful that I have seen. Hence my tendency to cheer. I felt a great pride that this one should be American.

I have also judged national and international competitions in Architecture. As a former Dean, and a professor for some twenty years, I have had the opportunity to observe the designs of several thousand budding professionals. I have seldom come across one with such clear beauty as that of Ms. Lin's proposal.

The competition jury's selection showed that talent and quality can transcend age, sex, professionalism and materialism, giving increased dignity to all four.

My uneasiness at the successive press stories over the past year came to a head with Mr. Horowitz' article in your July 7th issue. Despite that, however, I felt confident that principles and integrity still survive in the only place they can -- the spirit of the individual, for Ms. Lin's quoted comments show a wisdom and maturity that should make Mr. Scruggs, Mr. Watt, Mr. Perot and Mr. Cooper feel deeply incensed about the image that they wish this wonderful nation to present to the world of the Arts. They need to remember, I feel, that an image of compromise, meddling and mediocrity is hardly worthy of the heritage handed on by our national leaders of the past.

The great architect, Thomas Jefferson, when he failed to win the competition for the White House, did not try to meddle with its jury's decision. Can you imagine how we would have felt if our president had to live in a home whose elegant lines had been cluttered up by cheap additions which conflict with the inspiration of the original designer?

15 October 1982

Washington Post

A truly inspiring monument in the U.S. was the St. Louis Gateway Arch designed by Eero Saarinen. Have you ever stood beneath it and listened to delighted reactions in dozens of languages? Can you imagine the comments of our visitors if someone had decided that a tableau of pioneers, complete with covered wagon had to be placed beneath it, or if some well-meaning public figure had insisted on a motto being inscribed on its soaring stainless curves, or placed a tiny flag to flutter meekly in front of its powerful sweep? Can you imagine what its architect would have done if someone had the gall to change it without so much as consulting him? The whole idea is obviously laughable. The people of St. Louis would have been justifiably incensed at this cheapening of their treasure.

The people of America should be similarly incensed at the impending cheapening of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The architects of America are no less angered and the President of the AIA has voiced this concern.

The politicians of America should be ashamed that their standards of national pride in quality are being bandied about like cheap playthings, or worse in the currency of backroom bartering.

Perhaps it is time, too, for President Reagan who so passionately espouses individual freedom to recognize that an idea symbolic of the very essence of American creativity is being steadily eroded to the extent that it can become a laughing-stock among those who envy us for holding such freedoms sacred.

I am proud, as a naturalized citizen, to have the freedom to voice my individual opinion so strongly and to know that I can offer it to others through a free press. I call on my fellow architects to do likewise. Let both our people and our political leaders understand that the brilliant idea of this gifted architect, which shone alone in competition open to all U.S. citizens, should not be destroyed by political maneuvers.

Let it be built. But let it be built with integrity, in all its clear, uncluttered beauty.

Sincerely yours,

PJQ:vf

AA 12001524
October 11, 1982

Fine Arts Commission
708 Jackson Place N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Commissioners:

The New York Times reports that there is to be a special hearing on the Vietnam War memorial being erected in Washington, D.C.

Since I served for some years on the New York City Art Commission, which was responsible for approving art and architectural works for New York, I am familiar with the issues confronting the Fine Arts Commission.

The reconsideration of the memorial design by the Commission seems to me to be proper and orderly. Alteration and modification is always desirable if it better serves a project's objectives.

The existing proposal of two slabs on rising ground strikes me as an abstract design based on minimalist esthetics that were popular a decade ago. Its fashionableness is of dated artistic interest, more interesting now as a reflection of academic and professional cultural lag than as a contemporary work of art. Those who wish to contemplate an imposed abstraction may find it appealing, but it is clearly denigrating to those who lived through or died in the reality of the Vietnam War.

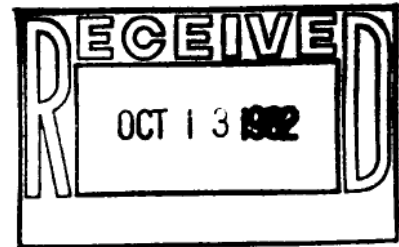
The modification as proposed by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is appropriate and fulfilling of the intentions of a memorial. It takes a harshly authoritarian design and turns it into a humanistic democratic memorial, fitting for the nation's capital. Esthetically, it marks an important step forward in the realization that human experience is the proper domain of the artist and does not have to be rendered abstractly or conceptually, or made contentless.

It is to be regretted that some would like the Vietnam War years to disappear from the nation's memory, that they would be pleased with the present design. I trust that the Fine Arts Commission will think otherwise and will accept the changes sought by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

Sincerely,

Elias

New York, New York



October 5, 1982

Rebecca

Houston, Texas

Mr. Frederick Hart
c/o The Washington Cathedral
Massachusetts and Wisconsin Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Hart:

Enclosed are two letters I have written to the Commission of Fine Arts along with their less than knowledgeable replies regarding the Vietnam Veteran Memorial in Washington, D. C. Why were these bureaucrats so quick to cover up the fact that you had already sculpted an addition to the original memorial? Why have you, an alleged artist, gotten yourself involved in what is so obviously a political matter? Shouldn't art, like religion, divorce itself from politics? How could you lower yourself to alter another artist's work with work of your own? More to the point, how would you feel, professionally, if your sculpture had won the memorial contest only to have our illustrious Secretary of Interior, Mr. James Watt, and the Commission of Fine Arts inform you that another artist had been commissioned to make your efforts more "appropriate"?

You, Mr. Hart, have transformed a graceful and serene monument to our veterans into a blatant glorification of war. What a slap in the face to the families and friends of those who paid the ultimate price for our country's political blundering, and what a disgusting desecration of what was to be a beautiful work of art.

If Lebanon should decide to erect a memorial to their mighty Christian forces who recently slaughtered so many innocent refugees, perhaps they could consider you their prime artist. God knows you know how to make a monument "appropriate."

Sincerely,

Enclosures

cc: James Watt

Commission of Fine Arts - *(Please see enclosed article)*

Perhaps you had better do more research in the future before making statements that are blatant lies.

S

PLAINFIELD NJ

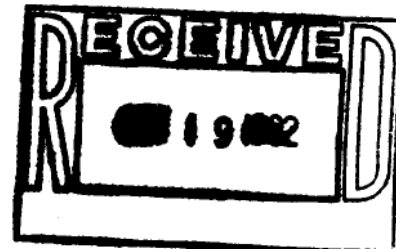
western union

Mailgram



4-012184S283 10/10/82 ICS IPMMTZZ CSP WSHB
2017548147 MGM TDMT PLAINFIELD NJ 49 10-10 0744P EST

J CARTER BROWN
FINE ARTS COMMISSION
708 JACKSON PL NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON DC 20001



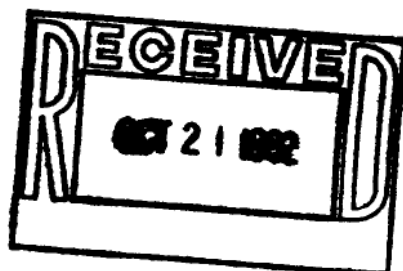
ARTISTIC FREEDOM IS BEING THREATENED BY THE TASTELESS. THERE IS A
WEALTH OF POWER IN THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL AS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED, YET
THE POWER OF WEALTH IS SEEKING TO DESTROY IT.
STUART

19:45 EST

MGMCOMP



GEORGE



Arlington, VA

Chairman
Fine Arts Commission
708 Jackson Place NW
Washington, D.C.

10 October, 1982

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As a combat-disabled Vietnam Veteran and artist and member of the most professional and prestigious art society and club of this nation and the world, I would like to state my support for the compromise suggestions of Mr. Carhart and Mr. Scruggs regarding the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to be built in Washington.

Although still considering the "black trench design" intolerable, I find Mr. Hart's rendering sculpture fantastic! The faces reflect my own experiences in Vietnam with troops such as those depicted in the figures, and also reflect the sadness and memories of the loss of these individuals in combat. Their ghostly tenacious stares remind me of my own pride, confidence, yet fear as I went into combat---and it also reminds me of how quickly the youthful appearance changed into sunken stares of "Men 19 years old pushing 60!" I strongly support this design change because it speaks of the Vietnam Veteran in a light which shows his remaining unflinching pride in what he was, what he did (beat the best jungle fighters of North Vietnam with minimal training and plenty of guts), and also what we lost, as we now gain years and harden with life's unyielding progression. I find most credible and laudible, Mr. Hart's inclusion of the dog-tag in the boot laces of the jungle boot and the peculiarly-styled combat equipment of that era. Any scholar of history will have a readily definable reference point in this statue from which to address the war as fought by the individual infantryman. For me, they are credible and viable; the flag, flagpole and statue will only create an environment which not only will be reflective, but also educational---and how many existing monuments do that?!

I would strongly oppose any alterations to this compromise, or any exclusion of its points, as anticipated by the "professionals of AIA," on the grounds that their testimony, unless they are themselves Vietnam Combat Veterans, is invalid and not germane because of that lack of expertise as a combatant in that war.

Page 2

This monument should be considered in the light of the various interpretations of our style of government by its notable leaders. To paraphrase: "...A Monument of the Vietnam Veteran, by a Vietnam Veteran, and for the Vietnam Veterans...." However, as we already know, the fact that a veteran did not do this design has caused much of the problems with its acceptance as a definition of the Vietnam experience. I hope the Commission will act properly, with the intentions of the Vietnam Veterans in mind when they decide this issue, and avoid any future conflicts which may depict the Commission as a body with no concept of art as applied to humanistic experiences and definitions in sculpture, paint, etc. And that would in itself, be a condemnation of this nation's ability to rise above the demands of life and perceive the truths of "duty, honor, country" and depict them properly through art.

Sincerely 

G.

cc:EOP,WH
File
Press

P.S. I regret that I cannot be present at the hearings to testify, but I will be at a combat-Vietnam Veteran gathering out of state for a week.

KEDAR

LA JOLLA CA

 **Mailgram**
western union



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THE WASHINGTON FINE ARTS COMMISSION
708 JACKSON PL NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON DC 20006

RECEIVED

OCT 12 1982

I URGE YOU TO LET ARTISTS DESIGN MEMORIALS AND PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS
TO FIGHT WARS. WHAT A DISGRACE IT WOULD BE TO HAVE THE ARTIST'S
DIGNIFIED AND MEANINGFUL DESIGN FOR THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL RUINED BY
SUPERFLUOUS HARDWARE

23:33 EST

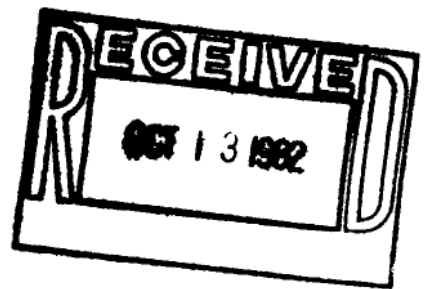
MGMCOMP

Dear Friends

I have been following the controversy of the Vietnam Memorial with much interest from the very beginning. As one who not only has a significant interest in the world of art and design but has also a serious and studious attitude toward the war in Vietnam I cannot withhold my opinion on the issue. I understand you are soon to vote on the approval of the addition of the statue. My vote falls in the lot with those who strongly feel that the statue is a serious detraction from the strong if subtle power of the original design. Even more important, however, than my personal judgement is the fact that the controversy should never have begun. We owe Maya Lin a great respect as one whose design fairly won the contest and to think of changing it without her approval is ludicrous and a sacrilege. I have visited the site as the walls are being built and I have faith in Maya Lin's design which creates a space that will be tremendous to experience.

■ ■ ■

Sincerely,
Laura



October 11, 1982

Mr. J. Carter Brown
Chairman, Fine Arts Commission
708 Washington Place
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Brown:

I understand that the Fine Arts Commission will soon be considering proposed additions to the original design of the Viet Nam Memorial in Washington, D.C. I am very familiar with both the original design and with the proposed modifications. As a combat veteran of the Viet Nam War, I would like respectfully but forcefully to urge that you and your committee reject the proposed additions.

The Viet Nam War too often consisted in a collective pursuit of 'heroic' abstractions, with a blind eye turned to the concrete and individual suffering that resulted. The later years of the war, for example, were carried out in order to "preserve American credibility", or to "save national face"...while too few asked how many real bodies were being sacrificed to save an abstract 'national face'.

It is the great value of the original design for the memorial that it places squarely at center stage the sacrifices that were too often overlooked during the course of the war itself. The original design has another advantage as well -- the advantage of ambiguity. It does not coerce the viewer towards any particular ideological perspective on the deaths it memorializes, but instead provides the serenity which allows such questions to arise. As a consequence, the original design can speak to those who view the Viet Nam War as one of America's finest hours, as well as to those who view it as a horrid mistake. And it can speak to those who, like me, are resigned to ambivalence about it.

To set above the original design the proposed statue of soldiers and the American flag would be to divert attention from the quiet eloquence of remembered sacrifice, and to thrust the entire memorial into the realm of ideological dispute. The additions are really an attempt, once more, to put an heroic gloss on the reality of loss. And because the additions would urge a traditional perspective -- they would unmistakably whisper that this was an heroic and honorable war -- the resulting monument would "disenfranchise" those millions of veterans who, like myself, cannot see this war in that way.

For those reasons, I hope that you and your committee will reject as adventitious and inappropriate the suggested additions to Ms. Lyn's original design.

Yours truly,

Robert

B AND S

ENGLEWOOD NJ

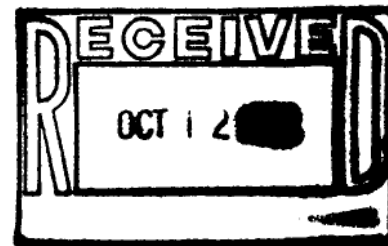


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UNITED STATES FINE ARTS COMMISSION
ATTN CHAIRMAN
708 JACKSON PL NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON DC 20006



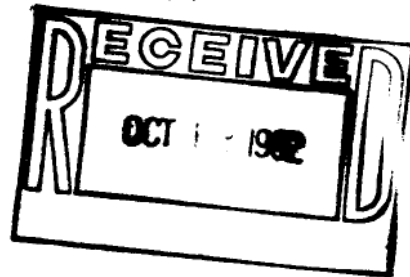
THE ORIGINAL DESIGN FOR VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL IS PERFECT IN TONE AND
ESTHETIC. PLEASE DON'T ALLOW PARTISAN ADULTERATION.
SUSAN

08:42 EST

MGMCOMP

Tampa, Fla.
October 6, 1932

Commissioner of the State
109 - Second Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20006



For whom the way concerns:

I am in favor of any kind of
memorial in honor of our men
and women who died in the
last war. I will be pleased with
any memorial design, but I do
like the design with two walls
and the statue of the three men.
The memorial statue is a traditional
concept and will be accepted by
most Americans. The two walls
should last for centuries. I believe
this because of my knowledge about
the Great Wall of China and the
famous Weiling Wall in the Holy
Land. The memorial walls with
the names of dead soldiers on it
shall live in the minds of societies.

to come. Wars are not filled
with glory and honor as many
memorials portray them
to be. Please, allow this neutral
and truthful memorial to last.

Sincerely,

James.

(pelted - 12.)

4 January 1983

Mr. Robert H. Doubek, Esq.
Project Director / Secretary
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.
1110 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 308
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Doubek,

To begin, I wish to thank you for our most cordial conversation this morning and it is my feeling that if many of the persons who are critical of the monument and its program administration would expend at least some of their energy in seeking accurate information that they would see their way clear to the realization that your efforts are admirable and in their service. It is my trust that any unsettled program matters will be brought to satisfactory resolution prior to final acceptance of this fine memorial. As an example of seeking accurate information I shall cite the question that came up during my visit to the memorial this past weekend. This was a statement I heard alleging the exclusion from the list of inscribed names anyone who did not die in Vietnam. You advised me that your list had been compiled and furnished by DOD and that if anyone was inadvertently omitted there were provisions for additions.

You also supplied the information that this list included all those who died as a result of service in Southeast Asia. In view of this, my advice to anyone who poses such questions is to do what I have done today.

In connection with my observations at the memorial this past weekend I must say that I have several concerns and will be following progress on them. These are: no lighting, no access walks from the streets across the grass which becomes sodden at the lightest rainfall, inadequate width walkway in front of the memorial, and lack of safety measures to prevent people from walking along the top edge. Again, you were kind enough to advise me that all these points have been considered and that you intend to satisfactorily resolve them.

Regarding the unresolved question concerning the locations of a flagpole and Mr. Hart's sculpture; I would like to see them in very close proximity to the monument. I do not perceive any conflict of the abstract and realistic. In contrast, I see them as complimentary. I know my views are shared by many.

Let me say that as a result of our conversation I have become impressed with your responsibility and sensitivity. I am quite convinced that you will make suggestions to the Commission of Fine Arts and National Park Service that will bring this matter to a proper conclusion. I would certainly be pleased to be advised of your recommendations to them.

You can be sure that I will take every opportunity to pass on the information you so graciously supplied during our phone call today.

Sincerely,

Robert

Wheaton, Maryland

cc: Mr. Jack Fish, NPS

Mr. Charles H. Atherton, GSA.

Mr. Dave Morgan, Intl. Brotherhood of Veterans

JAY

BRYAN TX

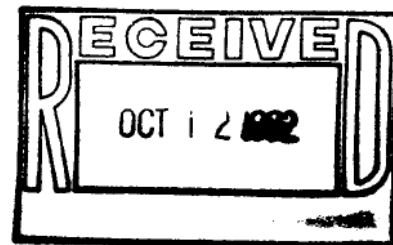
western union

Mailgram



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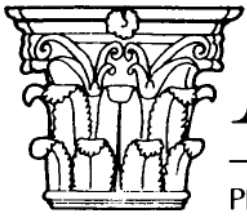
J CARTER BROWN, COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
708 JACKSON PL NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON DC 20006



I AM VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED TO ANY CHANGES IN THE LIN DESIGN FOR THE
VIETNAM MEMORIAL. PLEASE DO NOT SUCCUMB TO PRESSURE THAT WOULD
DESTROY THE EFFECTIVENESS AND SIMPLICITY OF THE ORIGINAL PLAN.
JAY

08:53 EST

MGMCOMP



PA p.c.

PLAZA ARCHITECTURAL pc 177 N.E. 102nd Portland, Oregon 97220-4174 (503) 256-047

October 6, 1982

Mr. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Brown:

I have followed closely the evolution of the proposed design changes to the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial. I am greatly disturbed by the prospect that what had initially been conceived as a very solemn and compelling memorial to those who died in the Viet Nam War, is about to become a cartoon of a World War II enlistment poster. This is a tragedy not only because it dilutes the impact of the memorial, but also because those forces which are promoting the changes are jeopardizing the integrity of this and all other design competitions. If the vagaries of the political climate do not allow the memorial to be built as originally conceived by its designer, then the proper approach in my opinion is to reject all entries and reopen the competition. To make the kind of major adjustments and revisions to the original conception is to trivialize the efforts of all those who made submittals to the competition, judged the competition and based on the original concept for the memorial have gathered the financial support.

Sincerely,

cc: AIA Government Affairs Department



Edward

Birmingham, Michigan
October 7, 1982



Mr. J. Carter Brown
Chairman
Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As a Vietnam veteran and, until recently, a longtime resident of Washington, I have a personal interest in the current debate over the Vietnam War Memorial. I am opposed to the suggestion of some to alter the original design of Maya Yang Lin by adding statues, flag poles and the like, in order to effect a more exultant spirit.

The deeds of war, are, by any measure, ambiguous in moral terms. Hence, it seems to me that we honor the dead best, not by dramatizing their deeds or the causes for which they were sent to die, but by remembering their sacrifice. The highest achievement of a war memorial should be to compel each person viewing it to reflect on the meaning and purpose of those final payments.

The original design does that because it makes us focus on the names of real people, not statues of idealized soldiers in heroic postures. Across the river, viewed from a distance, the hills of Arlington and the thousands upon thousands of stark, white markers need no other monuments among them to evoke, in the most awful way, the enormity of the collective sacrifice of those who died. And no one who has walked the footpaths of that ground, reading the names and dates, can deny its power to concentrate the mind on the meaning of war to the individuals whose lives were destroyed or forever changed.

In achieving a similar effect -- as Paul Goldberger, distinguished architecture critic of the New York Times, recently stated -- the original conception of Ms. Lin would, in its striking simplicity and power to evoke reflection, provide "a place of extreme dignity that honors the veterans who served in Vietnam with more poignancy than any ordinary monument ever could".

I urge the Commission to resist any changes in the design of the memorial.

Sincerely,