

this memorial is for and about Vietnam veterans.

Therefore, the American Legion urges this Commission to approve the design modifications which have been submitted for its consideration. We further urge that an approval decision be rendered today.

Mr. Chairman, the preceding statement has been wholeheartedly endorsed by the Amvets, NCO Association, National Association for Uniformed Services and the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, representatives of which are in the audience now. The endorsers represent over 575,000 members, 175,000 of which are Vietnam veterans. When combined with the membership of the American Legion, these organizations represent the views of 3.2 million war-time veterans, 925,000 of which served during the Vietnam era.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you very much.

Next will be Mr. Morgan S. Ruph, Amvets.

MR. RUPH: Mr. Chairman, I am Morgan S. Ruph of Amvets.

On behalf of our 200,000 member organization, we express to you our appreciation for the opportunity to come before you today to present our views on the proposed

additions of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Amvets has supported the Vietnam memorial since its inception and have contributed a substantial sum to its construction. We feel that we have been actively involved in the process over the past several years, and our membership is extremely interested in having this memorial dedicated as soon as possible.

We agree with the positions presented by our fellow organizations, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and we believe that the time has come to put aside controversy and debate over this memorial. We feel that the additions of Mr. Hart's statue and the American flag will offer a positive enhancement of the basic memorial design.

Further, we believe that the additions to the existing design will provide an eloquent tribute to the two and a half million men and women who served their Nation so well in the Vietnam War.

On behalf of the entire membership of Amvets, I am proud to say that we thoroughly concur with the presentations made by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and its supporters and we urge this Commission to grant final approval to this project, and we look forward to your favorable decision and hopefully a dedication at the conclusion of the national

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.