

Veterans Affairs, Veterans of the Vietnam War.

MR. SWARTZ: Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, I was going to speak basically about our organization, the Veterans of the Vietnam War and what we've done with regard to the Memorial. However, I'm really just going to stop here and let a Vietnam veteran for the members of our organization and the pro rights mainly of Vietnam veterans.

When this Memorial Fund came about, we supported it. We donated money for your organization. The Vietnam veterans with our organization supported it heavily. We didn't necessarily agree with the memorial as it was originally designed. However, it was a memorial to us and we went along with it. When these proposed changes came about, many of the veterans within our organization had a ray of hope that this would depict all Vietnam veterans.

I cannot see the putting of the American flag at a monument honoring Vietnam veterans would detract in any way, in my opinion, not to have the flag which we fought for and basically that was the only reason we fought over there, because many of us had mixed feelings on the political issues that were involved, not to have the American flag at our monument would be an insult to us.

The three men in the statue standing before you depict exactly what the American fighting man in Vietnam looked like, what he was. He was black, he was white, he was Hispanic, he was everything. For others in Vietnam, that is what we call ourselves. We are all brothers who served in Vietnam. Our unity is, I think that is, borne out by people who spoke to you today. All of the Vietnam veterans are speaking in favor of their statue. I cannot see how this would detract from the overall memorial.

As a Vietnam veteran, I am proud to see this, proud to be able to put our support, my personal support to the memorial, and I definitely hope that in your voting you approve these. It is essential to the Vietnam veterans, in my opinion, that this be dealt with.

Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you very much.

I think this concludes the group of veterans. We have others who have asked to speak as individuals -- I am sorry. Please.

MR. PRICE: I would like to introduce myself. I am Brigadier General (Retired) George B. Price, and I guess in the arena of performing arts and the fine arts, I am better known as Leontyne Price's brother. However, if Ms. Price was