

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: Ms. 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

basic design and for the sculpture depicting our sons and the flag of our country under which they fought. Many mothers are coming to Washington to attend the National Salute to Vietnam Veterans and the dedication of the memorial. Yet there may not be a dedication unless you act today to approve these proposals. You, the members of the Commission of Fine Arts, have the experience and knowledge as to where the sculpture and flag will be best located.

Please ensure, however, that we who have most recently visited will seek our memorial, one memorial. I looked forward to the dedication for so long. So many lives will be touched so many different ways during this week.

So on behalf of the Gold Star Mothers, I urge you to approve the sculpture and flag. I am deeply moved by the beauty and dignity of the walls. I am deeply touched for I see my sons in these figures. It is a beautiful enhancement to a fine memorial. Many parents and Vietnam veterans have planned to come to Washington for the dedication this November. Many could not afford to come back to Washington for the dedication if it occurs at some future date.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you. Thank you for letting me present this and perpetuating the memory of our sons.