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October 20 1987

The Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place NW
Washington D.C. 20006

To the Members of the Commission:

I spoke before you five years ago about the dangerous precedent being set by the addition of new sculptures to the Memorial's design- I think at this point that danger is clearly evident.

I am as opposed to this new addition as I was to the last- I cannot see where it will all end. I could think of numerous other groups that might also like to be represented pictorially, and I wonder once you start making individual concessions to these groups who is to say which groups should be allowed to become a part of the Memorial and which should not.

The three earlier statues were added before the walls were constructed- well before people had come to visit the Memorial; they were added in haste by those who did not visualize what the Memorial would be- This is no longer the case. The Memorial has existed peacefully for five years- the number of visitors should attest to its acceptance- it is not the "black ditch of shame and sorrow" that some people thought it would become. Instead, as you have seen it is a living wall, people react with it- bringing emotions and memories to it- placing themselves within its chronological order- and finding their own time upon the wall. It heals the living and it is representative of all those who served.

The Memorial was dedicated and given over to this Country in 1983- I see no reason to add anything more to the design.

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