

(Brown, 07 Jan '88, p. 2)

We, the incarcerated Vietnam veterans are often reminded that we are "forgotten warriors". However, even more forgotten are the thousands of sisters who served and gave of their youth, their innocence, and their blood in defense of freedom.

We, both men and women, cry out "Together Then ... Together Now!"

Fraternalv yours;

PAUL

cc: Per SOP
Ronald W. Reagan, U.S. President

J.C.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 455TH GENERAL HOSPITAL
1 NARRAGANSETT STREET
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02905-4233

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Mr. Charles Atherton
Secretary, Fine Arts Commission
708 Jackson Place NW
Washington, D.C.

6 February 1988

Dear Mr. Atherton:

Many Americans were offended and disappointed by the Fine Arts Commission October 22, 1987 rejection of the proposal to complete the Vietnam Veterans Memorial with a statue of a woman.

When Congress passed the law establishing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, it devoted this land to honor Vietnam Veterans. The statue of three men, which was added to the Memorial, is not abstract art representing all of the Armed Forces serving in that conflict. The representation of women is simply not evident.

Women are woefully under-represented in our national memorials and monuments. Certainly the role of women and our attitudes toward women have changed since the Civil War. The Vietnam women's statue provides an opportunity to integrate the recognition of women into an existing monument. The design of the Vietnam Memorial has already been modified by the addition of the infantryman statue. The Commission of Fine Arts appropriately has the responsibility and latitude to approve this tribute to women who served our nation in Vietnam.

As members of the United States Army Reserve, serving with both men and women in the defense of this country, we view this statue as a needed tribute to the women serving in our Armed Forces. We encourage the Commission to reconsider their decision and allow this monument to become a reality.

Respectfully yours,

cc: President Reagan

DORIS

WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

October 30, 1987

Mr. J. Carter Brown
Director
National Gallery of Art
6th Street and Constitution Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20565

Dear Mr. Brown:

I served as a Captain in the
Army Nurse Corps from 1967-1968.
I was stationed at the Seventh
Field Hospital in Japan. The hospital
was specifically established to
care for those wounded in Vietnam.

I am offended and disappointed
by the Fine Arts Commission October
22nd decision to reject the
proposal to complete the

DORIS

WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

Vietnam Veterans Memorial with a statue of a woman.

When Congress passed the law establishing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, it devoted this land to honor Vietnam Veterans. The statue of three men which was added to the memorial is not abstract art representing all humanity. The representation of women who served in Vietnam is simply not evident.

Women are woefully under-represented in our national monuments and memorials. Certainly the role of women and our attitudes toward women have changed since the Civil War. The Vietnam women's statue provides an

DR. DORIS TROTH LIPPMAN

3.

DR. DORIS TROTH LIPPMAN
9 WOODSEND LANE
WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT 06880

opportunity to integrate the recognition of women into an existing monument.

Perhaps had you had the experience of serving in the Armed Forces you might have had the opportunity to realize the important and essential role that women provide. Since you have not, I would ask that you speak to those who have and that women provide. Since you have not, I would ask that you and the Fine Arts Commission take time to reconsider your October 22nd decision.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,
Doris

Fairfield, Ct.

C. Mrs. C. Atherton
Ms. P. Regan
Mr. N. Porterfield
Ms. C. Deaver
Ms. O. Wolf
Mr. F. Hart

PETITION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL FOR WOMEN VETERANS

We are offended and disappointed by the Fine Arts Commission October 22, 1987 rejection of the proposal to complete the Vietnam Veterans Memorial with a statue of a woman.

When Congress passed the law establishing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, it devoted this land to honor Vietnam Veterans. The statue of three men which was added to the memorial is not abstract art representing all humanity. The representation of women who served in Vietnam is simply not evident.

Women are woefully under-represented in our national memorials and monuments. Certainly the role of women and our attitudes toward women have changed since the Civil War. The Vietnam women's statue provides an opportunity to integrate the recognition of women into an existing monument. The design of the Memorial has already been modified by the addition of the infantryman statue. The Commission of Fine Arts appropriately has the responsibility and latitude to approve this tribute to women who served our nation in Vietnam. We believe that upon further reflection, the Commission will make this a reality.

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

886182100

Dear Mr. Brown:

On October 21, 1988, Congress unanimously passed legislation to allow our Brodin memorial to be placed at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington, DC.

All across these United States, towns, cities, counties, and states are raising funds to dedicate their own memorials to their fallen heroes of the Vietnam war. Surely, our nation deserves to pay tribute to its women veterans in the manner supported by its citizens, both men and women.

Everywhere I have gone to speak in support of our Brodin statue, everyone says she clearly depicts what we women veterans represent, and is long overdue in getting dedicated at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. We urge The Commission of Fine Arts to reverse their decision and support America's choice of the Brodin statue.

Sincerely,



cc: ✓ Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Carolyn J. Deaver
Roy M. Goodman
Frederick E. Hart
Neil H. Porterfield
Ms. Pascal Regan
Ms. Diane Wolf

October 19, 1988

Dear Mr. Charles Atherton,

I am sending you this letter to voice my feelings in regards to the Vietnam Womens Memorial Project.

I feel very strongly that the statue depict a nurse with a stethoscope and helmet, as a symbol of the sacrifice and duty given by these women in The Vietnam War.

It is also a great concern of mine that the statue be placed in the immediate vacinity where the present Vietnam Memorial stands, as a tribute for all Americans to remember.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, ,


Mary

Detroit, MI

10/6/88

BALLAD OF A WOMAN VETERAN

I was a soldier, a fighter tried and true
You may not remember me, but I went there for you
I had my share of combat, I saw the blood and gore
But somehow I'm forgotten when they tell about the war

They say we weren't real soldiers
Eventhough our blood was spilled
They forget about our wounded
They forget about our killed
Some say that we just partied there and enjoyed our deadly chore
How I resent those lies about me when they tell about the war

I'm a woman and a veteran
I say it with great pride
Having given of my very best, there's nothing I need hide
And now I have the right to ask that the burden that I bore
Always be remembered when they tell about the war



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

Dear Mr. Brown:

As one of the women who served our country in Vietnam, that poem says it all for me.

Unlike many of the men who served, the women volunteered for service in Vietnam, and did so because our "brothers" were there and in need of our support. We served honorably, and now our fellow Vets support us in our efforts to place the Brodin statue of the combat nurse at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

We've earned our place at "the Wall", please don't let artist egoism and political concerns deprive all women of this acknowledgment.

"Together then --- Together again in D.C."!

Sincerely,

Cathleen

Pleasanton, CA

Oct. 5, 1988

Cleveland, Oh.

J. Carter Brown
U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson, Pl. NW.
Washington, DC. 20046

OCT 11 1988

Dear Sir -

My two nieces were nurses during the Vietnam War & discharged honorably with rank of Captain and Major. Their correspondence during their service reveals dedication, sensitivity and patriotism. Memories of the air flights with poultices, and caring bedside care are, and will forever be, their only "medal" of their contribution to this war.

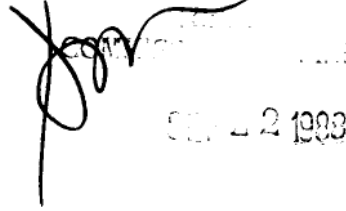
I strongly urge your support in the design and placement of a memorial statue in the Washington D.C. area of a women of service in the armed forces of the United States

Sincerely yours

Jayce

Redondo Beach, Ca
September 18, 1988

Mr. J. Carter Brown, Chair
Fine Arts Commission
908 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006


SEP 2 1988

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am a nurse. I served 18 months in Vietnam. I am single. I have no children. I would like the Vietnam Women's Monument of the Brodie Statue be placed at the Wall site. With the statue at the Wall my relatives perhaps will recall they had a woman relative who served in the war. This is a first for my family.

I appreciate your kind consideration for all the women who served.

Respectfully,

Nancy

PTSD Group #59B

Coatesville, Pa.
January 14, 1988

Mr. J. Carter Brown,
Secretary
National Gallery of Art
Sixth Street & Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20565

Dear Mr. Brown:

We are a group of Vietnam Veterans presently undergoing long-term treatment for war-related Post-Trauma Stress Disorder(PTSD). We would like to lend our voice of support to the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project.

As part of our therapy, we are in daily contact with women who served ably and well in Southeast Asia during the period of our own service. Most of us have close personal memories of our original, war-related introductions to these extraordinary women. In some cases, those memories are profound, since they are based on incidents in our lives involving life and death, sorrow and tragedy.

As Vietnam Veterans, we feel that the devotion of these women to duty, honor and country was at least equal to our own, and their dedicated service and sacrifice is equally deserving of a national memorial. No more suitable tribute could be offered than a statue located within the grounds of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

We therefore urge you, as Director of the National Gallery, to prevail upon the Fine Arts Commission and recommend they promptly reconsider their insensitive October 22, 1987 disapproval of the proposed addition.

Sincerely yours,

PTSD Group #59B

cc: Ms. Donna-Marie Boulay, R.N.
Chairman
Vietnam Women's Memorial Project
511 Eleventh Avenue South, BOX 45
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

JAN. 22, 1988

Mr. Brown -

IN READING A LATE COPY OF VIETNAM VETERANS ACTION NEWS, I THOROUGHLY READ THE FRONT PAGE ARTICLE ON THE ART COMMISSION'S VETOING THE NURSE MEMORIAL.

I WOULD LIKE TO ADD MY VOICE DISAPPROVING YOUR ACTION.

NOT KNOWING OF YOUR MILITARY STATUS, I WOULD SURMISE YOU HAVE NEVER HAD A PERSONAL CONTACT WITH MILITARY SERVICE NURSES, EITHER IN A COMBAT OR NON-COMBAT SITUATION.

I COULDN'T BEGIN TO EXTOLL THE MANY FINE VIRTUES THE NURSES EXPEND IN THEIR DUTIES OF CARING FOR MILITARY PEOPLES, I'M NOT CAPABLE OR QUALIFIED TO LIST ALL THE PRAISES THAT SHOULD BE AWARDED THEM.

I HAVE A GOOD FRIEND WHO WAS AN FLIGHT NURSE IN THE PACIFIC THEATRE DURING W.W. II IN THE EARLY 40'S AND IN LISTENING TO HER RECALL HER MILITARY SERVICE TIMES, I WAS IN AWE OF THE CONDITIONS THEY WERE ASKED TO WORK IN AND UNDER.

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF WARS AND BATTLES IN TIMES OF RECORD, THE WOMEN

WHO ATTENDED TO THE WOUNDED AND THE DYING WERE ALWAYS USUALLY INACCLAIMED FOR ALL OF THEIR WORK AND DEDICATION.

MORESO IN THE PAST 2 CENTURY'S THERE HAS BEEN A GROWING AWARENESS OF LACK OF TRIBUTE TO THESE GALLANT WOMEN, SO NOW WHEN HOPEFULLY THE VIET NAM WAR WILL BE OUR LAST INVOLVEMENT, THEY SHOULD BE ACCORDED THEIR TRIBUTES. THEY HAVE PAID THEIR DUES!

LASTLY, TO COMPARE THE PLACING OF A STATUE OF NURSES ON A LOWLY LEVEL OF EQUALITY WITH THAT OF A CANINE, WAS A STATEMENT OF TOTAL INSENSEITIVITY ON YOUR PART.

I CAN ONLY HOPE YOU WOULD RECONSIDER THE PRACING OF THE STATUE AND LEND YOUR SUPPORT TO HONORING THESE TRULY UNSUNG HERO'S.

FOR THE RECORD, I SERVED IN THE U.S. ARMY IN 1950 TO 1952 WITH TIME SPENT IN GERMANY, AND WAS PROUD TO HAVE MET SOME FINE NURSES BOTH STATESIDE AND IN EUROPE.

THANKING YOU FOR YOUR TIME -
Hon

10/30/87

Fine Arts Commission,
Vietnam Memorial
Washington, D.C.

Dear Commissioners,

On a local public broadcast-
ing station I heard ~~about~~
the dispute you are being
confronted with concerning
acknowledging the women
who were in Vietnam.
I agree with them, that
it is time women be
depicted at our nation's
memorials.

Further, I wish to inform
you that not all those
who served in Vietnam
and died as a result
are listed on the wall.

There are no Many Seals
listed on the wall, nor are
they acknowledged as a

unit with ensued
in any of the accompanying
information at the memorial
How come?

Sincerely,

Julia

Port Townsend
WA

Dear Mr. Brown,

J.

Boulder, CO.

①

I recently learned that the Fine Arts Commission has rejected the proposed statue of a woman as an addition ~~to~~ the Vietnam Veteran's memorial. I believe you should reconsider your decision in this matter. I know several women who volunteered to support the men serving in Vietnam. They did so at a time when most young people in this country were opposed to any involvement at all. Many of these women faced the same dangers as the men, but more important to remember is that they all come back with the same scars and memories of tragedy, pain, mutual support, and respect for each other.

Does a group of people have to actually be under fire or kill

(2)

enemy troops to qualify for recognition?
And if so, how many times or what
percentage of days?

I believe the country's attitude toward
war has progressed beyond the macro
blind admiration of killing machines.

The memorial must stand for recognition
of sacrifice and commitment to honor
and duty.

If the women who served in Vietnam
do not qualify for recognition, do the
men who ran supply operations qualify?
or the men who served on staffs but
did not come under fire? I think you
do not intend to malign or belittle
the roles these men played. They
were a part of a team that combat
soldiers relied on and could not
survive without their contributions.

①
③

What must be remembered is that the women were as much a part of the team as the men who were not in daily combat. You need not take my word for it, why don't you attend an upcoming Vietnam Vet gathering and talk to the people involved and the men who the current statue represents?

I believe you will find many women there who have as much a right to be recognized as the men. And I'm sure you will hear how much the men who the current statue represents relied on and appreciated the role that the women nurses, donut dollies etc. played and also the support they have given through the difficult times after returning home.

Please reconsider,
Sincerely,

Ken Freund
of Charleston



March 1, 1968

Mr. J. Carter Brown, Director

National Gallery of Art.

Dear Sir,

As former Army Nurse in World War II, I was offended by the decision of the Fine Arts Commission on October 22, 1967.

There is no statue that I know of in the United States of America which recognizes womens service to their country.

In each war, from the Revolution on, women have served in or with the armed forces. In World War I Women served as telephone operators with the Signal Corps in France. This does not mention the Red Cross Nurse, the Salvation Army, the Y, or the Navy. Others who also served overseas in war I. At the telephone operators had to wait from 1919, until 1979 to get their recognition from the government. By this time there were under 200 of them still alive.

Please I beg of you, do not make the Vietnam girls wait 60 years for their recognition. Give it to, them now.

Thank You

Corothy

Sumter, SC,
18 January 1983

Mr. J. Carter Brown
Director, National Gallery of Art
6th Street and Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC, 20565

Dear Mr. Brown,

I am a 1952 BSc in Nursing graduate of The Johns Hopkins School of Nursing and University. I retired as a Lt. Colonel, after 25 years service in the US Air Force in 1980. From 15 December 1968 to 15 December 1969 I served in VietNam with the 21st Casualty Staging Flight at the Tan Son Nhut Air Base. We cared for combat casualties and others from In-Country overnight prior to Aeromedical Evacuation out of VietNam. I am now deeply involved in volunteer activities in my community-American Red Cross, Church activities, professional organizations, boards, etc.

Friday, 6 November 1987, I was heading to Greenville, SC, to speak at the Gold Star Banquet (Families who have lost a relative in Hostile Fire Zone) the evening before the dedication of the Greenville County VietNam Veterans Memorial. I opened my mail prior to leaving and found out that the Fine Arts Commission had rejected, on 22 October, the inclusion of statue of a woman at the VietNam Veterans Memorial. I was, and still am, sorely distressed about this. Over the past two months I have weighed the reasons given for rejection and now that the Holidays are over feel compelled to express my thoughts.

With my fellow veterans, male and female, I served in VietNam. With my fellow veterans, male and female, I marched in Washington, New York City, Chicago and Houston. I attended the dedications of the Memorials in these cities as well as the moving Three Fighting Men Statue. At each of these events our fellow male veterans recognized the contributions of women in Health Care, Supply, Transportation, Administration, Intelligence and other Support in VietNam. We served in the Military and Civil Services, the Red Cross and USO, the Diplomatic Service and Religious Missions. When the Men's statue was dedicated in Washington, our male comrades kept saying: "The women were at our side in 'Nam. Eight women died there and their names are on the wall (one is Elizabeth Ann Jones from Allendale, SC). Why aren't they at our side by the Wall?" At no time has the contribution of women's service in wartime service since the beginning of this country been recognized appropriately. A movement by all VietNam Veterans to rectify this in our War began that day. The hopes of completing the Memorial with the statue gained momentum, only to have them dashed.

There are those who truly believe that we should forget it, that everything is completed, over and done-the healing, the memorial, the statue. I wish it were true. I know we've come a long way these past years in this country, but there is still more to do. The time has come to help close the circle by recognizing the contribution of the women. Our contribution was not superficial,

ough there are those who seek to trivialize it. I daresay, if
were not for the women who served in VietNam there would be
many more than the 58,000plus names on the Wall. Stating that the
statue of the Fighting Men, moving though it is, represents the
women also, neuters and diminishes all of us and what we did over
there. Placing women in the same category as the K-9 (Canine)
Corps is demeaning .

It is time for women VietNam Veterans to be given visible recog-
nition at our memorial. The average age of service in VietNam was
19 years. I turned 40 over there. I had my 58th birthday last
November. I hope and pray that I live to see the Woman's statue
at the Wall.

I am a member of the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of
Foreign Wars, American Nurses Association and the VietNam
Veterans of America. All of these organizations support this
statue.

I would appreciate your reconsideration of this decision.

RUTH

18 January 1988

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Charles Atherton, Secretary
Fine Arts Commission
708 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

RE: Support for Vietnam Women's Memorial Project
(S.J. Res. 215 & H. Res. 3628)

As a female officer in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, I am very concerned with the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project to place a nurse statue at the Capitol's Vietnam Memorial.

I joined the U.S. Air Force in 1980 as an Intelligence Officer and spent much of my active duty time stationed in Southeast and East Asian theater of operations. Even though I came in after the Vietnam conflict ended for U.S. troops, I learned of that era through working with men and women who had seen combat or the results of it.

I think the statue is a fitting tribute to all military women (past, present, and to come) who contribute their time, expertise, and even lives to support freedom throughout the world. Even though the nurse statue portrays only one career field, it will be representative of all career fields.

Aesthetically and politically, the statue should be placed at the Vietnam Memorial "circle". Remember this, we military women volunteer for this duty; by law, it is not required of us. We are proud of what we do. Please regard the statue as an important gesture for American women.

* 1987-88 Air Force Junior Vice-President, California Department,
Reserve Officers Association of the United States

Newberg, Oregon

February 5, 1988

The Honorable J. Carter Brown,
Director, National Gallery of Art
6th Street and Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20565

Dear Mr. Brown,

As a former combat Vietnam veteran, I am proud that memorials and statues have been built to honor those who had fought and died in Vietnam.

I support and agree with you that the present memorials to Vietnam veterans represents the contributions of all who served in Vietnam. I do not support the proposed Vietnam Women's Memorial project that wants to create a monument for female Vietnam veterans, as I believe to start erecting statues to individual groups is contrary to the present Vietnam War Memorial effort and to the spirit of unity it generates.

Sincerely,
Dennis



South San Francisco Women's Club

355 Erica Drive
South San Francisco, CA 94080
February 3, 1988

Mr. J. Carter Brown, Director
National Gallery of Art
6th Street and Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20565

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am writing both as an individual and as president of the South San Francisco Women's Club whose 160 members have collectively expressed their concern over your decision to reject the addition of a woman's statue to the Vietnam Memorial. We understand that you consider the statue of three men adequate representation of those who served. The original error was probably that of the sculptor, but it is to be regretted that he did not include a female figure in his design. That error, we feel, must be rectified.

We strongly urge you to reconsider your decision.

Sincerely yours,

c. Mr. Charles Atherton



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 205

07 January 1988

Mr. Jay Carter Brown, Chairman
Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006 - 0708

RE: Vietnam Women's Memorial Project

Dear Mr. Brown:

We, the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #205, at the Auburn Correctional Facility, Auburn, NY, strongly express our disagreement and disappointment with the decision rendered by your Commission in regard to the placement of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project Statue honoring all of our sisters that served this great country in Vietnam.

We feel the respect and the honor earned by our sisters is long overdue and that your Commission's rejection is based on the reason that you feel the Memorial is complete is totally unacceptable.

Let us bring to your attention to the fact that without the caring, healing, and support of those sisters who served shoulder-to-shoulder with us in numerous capacities, the names on "The Wall", which you feel is complete, would be two-fold ... if not three-fold, or more.

Therefore, we fully support the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project and we request that your Commission change its decision as soon as possible to insure that the honor and respect earned by all of our sisters is fully recognized, and that their statue stand once again, shoulder-to-shoulder with their brothers at the Vietnam Memorial in lasting honor,

Since we feel this issue is of most urgency and importance, and demanding immediate attention, we are respectfully forwarding a copy of this letter to the President of the United States.



IN REMEMBRANCE



VIETNAM SERVICE

Auburn Correctional Facility • 135 State Street • Auburn, New York 13024-9000

NOT-FOR-PROFIT NATIONAL VETERANS' ORGANIZATION



Nov. 17, 1987

Mr. J. Carter Brown:

Normally my professional, business sense would say temper your response on the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project but this time I'm going with common sense — and my immediate reaction.

"I went to Viet Nam 6 days after Tet. Tell you what. Next time you throw a war or conflict — do it without the women nurses."

Enclosed are 3 poems I wrote. Obviously you don't understand what we were about.

Hat Spring S.D.

war we are swallowed by the mud of
mankind's history. I've cared for kids
whose guts were blown asunder because
their back yard to play was a land
mine. Those kids won't cry forever,
but you learn how to kill forever.
Our despair, oh God, is not in our
crying stage but when the crying
hardens.

you called it conflict — we lived it Hell
There was this war
Conflict by name
In Southeast Asia
Many of us came
Some returned
Not one the same.

Dying is a verb
actively denying
the present sense
of life

✓
Braintree MA

Nov 14, 1987.

Dear Mr. Brown.

Our daughter Bernadette was
in V-Nam- for 13 months right where
they brought the wounded in by
helicopter.

She work 12 hours a day or night!
We have tape she sent us. She walked
in blood. Now she feel they have
no recognition in Washington D.C.
Near the 3 men statue - Can you
interceed for all the Nurses please?

Sincerely,

GARY

FORESTRY
Timber Cruising
Forest Management
Logging Management

Springfield, OR

INDUSTRY
Operational Consulting
Financial Analysis
Bank Financing

November 20, 1987

Mr. J. Carter Brown
Director
National Gallery of Art
6th Street and Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D. C. 20565

Dear Mr. Brown;

This letter is in reference to the Oct 22 meeting between the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project and the FAC. I am appalled at the thought that they turned down the request for the statue for women who served in Vietnam.

I am a Vietnam Veteran I was there in 1967-68 during the Tet offence as a medic in the Air Force I saw what the war did to the young men who came through our dispensary. I saw what the nurses did to help them, I worked with them, I held them as WE cried, cried out of pain, exhaustion, sadness, frustration and just plain release of emotion.

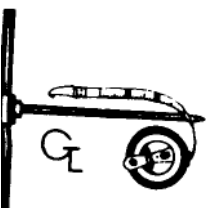
The nurses and all the women veterans put a lot into their jobs and of themselves while fighting the war over there and all the other previous wars. Only to date, are some of the women getting the recognition they deserve for what they did in WW 1, WW 2 and the Korea war. It is time that something solid is erected to bring recognition to what they have given to the "MEN" of the armed forces.

The reasons the memorial was turned down are poor and weak. The memorial is not complete, we continue to add names of men dying today on the memorial.

Mr. Carter Browns comments were stupid and short sided, about a statue to the canine corps. Mr. Hart sounds egotistical and not caring. I fail to see how a statue of Men can represent the women's contributions women are women not some piece of man despite what the bible says about Adams rib.

The healing process is no where complete, it has never been complete for any of the wars in history and certainly not complete for us who were there. I, finally, after 20 years, went to a Vet Center for counseling and found out that my guilt, pain, grieving, and suffering was not only normal but all of us from Nam, Korea, and WW II and even Granadia still have it.

M.B.A. Forest Industry Management
B.S. Forestry



I am successful in what I do now but I still hurt from "Nam" not healed, I never will be healed, I am just better able to put my pain and put it in its place. This statue would help women to put their pain in its place. It will not heal them more than the Vietnam Memorial healed me but it will finally let them know they are not forgotten

I attended the dedication of the Oregon Memorial to the Vietnam Vet and a reporter asked me, "does this make you well or heal your wounds". No it didn't, not entirely, but it sure helped me close the door to that part of my life a little further and the sights, sounds, smells, cries and pain is more easily accepted and handled knowing that I am not forgotten as a vet. Let us not forget the women vet be it Vietnam, Korea, or other wars.

Give them their dues they deserve it.

Gary

Fresno, California
November 11, 1987

Mr. J. Carter Brown
Director
National Gallery of Art
6th Street and Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20565

Dear Mr. Carter Brown:

On this Veterans' Day I wish to express my disappointment by the Fine Arts Commission October 22, 1987 rejection of the proposal to complete the Vietnam Veterans Memorial with a statue of a woman. I volunteered for service during the Vietnam War because I was too young to volunteer during World War II when the United States and Japan were at war. I spent three years of my life along with many other Japanese Americans behind barbed wire fences in my own country, so I know what it means to be oppressed.

Granted, 10,000 women are a small minority, but you ask any Vietnam veteran who returned from that war how they feel about our contribution, and the need to recognize and honor ALL veterans. The Commission of Fine Arts has the responsibility and duty to approve this tribute to women who served our nation in Vietnam. I hope that upon further reflection, the Commission will make that a reality.

Sincerely,

cc: Ronald Reagan, President, United States of America
Charles Atherton, Secretary, Fine Arts Commission

Norristown, Pennsylvania

Mr. J. Carter Brown, Director
National Gallery of Art
6th Street & Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20565

RECEIVED
COMMISSION OF - OF ARTS

NOV 4 1987

My dear Mr. Brown:

As I am certain that you have been flooded recently with an enormous amount of mail concerning the Women's Memorial Project, I can only hope that you will take a few moments to consider an opposing view; one that seems to be in agreement with you.

I served in the military in 1967-68, as a medic at Valley Forge General (Army) Hospital outside Philadelphia, and I too am in need of the Wall and the healing that it promises and many times delivers. Many of the young men whom I tended did not survive their wounds, many are crippled in body and/or mind, alive even now. My pain is deep and needy.

However, I do not see the answer to this problem in the erection of a statue "of a woman" at the Wall. You are most correct in stating that this could lead to petitions for other groups to be included. Certainly, there were many women involved in the war, both in VietNam and here in the states. But the great number of women in this group WERE NOT NURSES! The thought of having a statue, complete with stethoscope and ANC insignia, would be, in whatever degree, an affront to those of us who were neither officers nor nurses. Women served as engineer technicians, aircraft technicians, and casualty personnel (Those unfortunate women in the latter category spent day after day matching personal effects with body bags, completing the paperwork of the dead.)

Mr. Brown, I realize that your decision, on the surface, seems unreasonable, but I do believe that you have thought a bit more about it than some who will try to bury your office staff in mail. Thank you for your foresight. There surely must be a better way to honor the women (not nurses) of the VietNam War.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jenna

Linda

Pawcatuck, CT

Oct. 30, 1987

J. Carter Brown
Director
National Gallery of Art
6th St. & Constitution Ave N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20565

Dear Mr. Brown,

I am writing to express my extreme disappointment and dismay at the recent action of the Fine Arts Commission's refusal to approve the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project's request to place the statue of a woman at the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. I was even more dismayed to learn of your actions to solicit votes against this proposal from individuals on the Commission.

I have no idea why you would be against this project and the women who served our nation during the Vietnam War. Perhaps you are unaware that every major veterans organization in this country has endorsed this project and its goal. Perhaps you are unaware that the project has the support of President Reagan and countless thousands of Americans who have contributed money to aid this project. This is not a question of symbolic imbalance, corollary hypothesis of proliferation of monuments. This is indeed a question of honor - honor to 263,000 women who served this country when men fled to Canada rather than assume that responsibility. The supreme insult of you and the Commissioners to equate our ~~project~~ to fear that the next statue request will come to honor the K-9 Corps (ie dogs) is outrageous. The additional suggestion that nurses should consider a park bench as a fitting memorial to our service is indeed symbolic injustice. Only in the surrealistic atmosphere of Washington could such thinly disguised sexist, discriminatory remarks pass for artist concern for symbolic imbalance.

I urge you to reconvene the Commission for a fair hearing of this matter. I gave 16 years of my life to the military until I became disabled from an USAF Aircraft accident and could not continue. I gave my service to defend your freedoms and rights; something you have denied me and the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project. The "Nurse" belongs at the Wall. Just as she stood with the men at Pleiku and Cam Rahn Bay when the Viet Cong overran the installations; just as she died with them at Chu Lai and Quinhon; just as she suffered the agony of an empty return home - She belongs there near those rows and rows of names, whose faces we can't forget. Unlike you, she knew many of them and was with them when they died. Beside them then - beside them now and for all time.

- Linda :

Nov 9, 1987

MR. Charles A. Thornton and
members of The Fine Arts Commission.

Dear Folks,

As a woman and a former American
Red Cross Volunteer in Vietnam, I was
not happy with your decision to
reject The Vietnam Women's Memorial.

No, we would not be happy with
a "memorial bench" and once more take a
back seat to The men. No, The statue of The
"Three Fighting Men" does not represent women
in that war as a statue of a woman wouldn't
represent The men (Hey - That's an idea - remove
The men's statue & replace it with ours saying
it represents BOTH!). We did very different things!

As for The age old, empty, elitist argument -
IF we give it to me we have to give it to
all - I say SO WHAT?! Everyone who
did their part deserves The recognition -
As far as I am concerned The memorial
really won't be complete until we
have statues representing a Vietnamese
family - married children and all!!
AND if you think it is messy and
unartistic to have a memorial with
1/2 doz. statues, just what do you
think The ground covered with bodies
& body parts of 19 year olds looks
like? Maybe we need a messy
memorial since The neat, pretty ones
haven't made a great enough impact.

I intend to see that we do

get our women's memorial placed
at the site of the Vietnam memorial
in Wash. D.C.

I am sorry for you, if
you cannot be a part of it.
Sincerely,

Norwood, Ma.

Cherie

Susan

Ypsilanti, MI
Nov. 19, 1987

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

To the Commission Chairperson,

Regarding the commission's decision not to include a statue of a nurse or nurses in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial:

You cannot possibly believe "the healing process is complete."

You cannot equate a decision to include a memorial to the women to then having to add other statues, such as one for the canine corps.

You are fooling yourselves if you believe the statue of the men, as appropriate and compelling as it and The Wall are, represents women's contributions to the U.S. effort in Vietnam.

You must be frightened of the dedication and sacrifice it took for these women to put up with the abuse and misuse of their talents and dignities in the mostly-male military system.

You must not understand what these women meant to wounded soldiers who reached out for help -- and received it.

You must not know that women, too, died not only in the Vietnam War but in Korea, in both World Wars and all the other wars fought by and for America.

You cannot know that they suffered the same mental stresses and traumas as the men, or you would not -- could not -- pause. Or perhaps you do not care.

If you did, you would not -- could not -- hesitate to include, immediately, such a memorial. It would not be the outcry from the people like myself that moved you to take action -- it would be your own conscience crying out for justice.

But if it still cannot be your conscience, let it be mine that says you must help the women heal, too. They are your hope and your humanity and, when you get right down to it, you cannot afford not to remember them in a way they can look at and touch.

I'm no flag-waver, and I'm no feminist. I am, however, a humanist, a person who fervently believes people should obtain those things they honestly earn. That includes the women who worked for their country, as these women did.

Please give this matter further, and much more serious, attention.

Sincerely,

Susan

✓
November 11, 1988

Mr Brown -

During this week (8-14 November 1987), the United States Army is observing National Women Veterans Recognition Week. Since the American Revolution, women have served side by side with men in the defense of our great nation. I (a male veteran) served with some outstanding women veterans in Vietnam.

I was appalled to read this week that on 22 October 1987 your commission did not support a request to construct a memorial to women Vietnam veterans at the Washington Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This decision has to be one of the most flagrant cases of sex discrimination this country has ever witnessed. The memorial will never be complete without recognizing these brave women who made the supreme sacrifice in support of the national security interests of our country. Please don't give me the B.S. about if you recognize these women you will have to also recognize the canine dog corps. What we are talking about here is a monument to all Vietnam veterans -- male and female -- without it you have failed to exercise your responsibilities to the people of this country. Thank you.



Wisconsin State Senate

James E. Harsdorf

November 11, 1987

J. Carter Brown, Commissioner
Fine Arts Commission
708 Jackson Place NW
Washington, D. C. 20565

Dear Mr. Brown:

I write you today to express my very deep regret at the action taken recently by the Fine Arts Commission, with regard to its denial of the placement of the Vietnam Women's Memorial at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

This project has been an issue close at heart to me, in that the initiator of the project and the model used for the Memorial, Ms. Diane Evans, resides in my state senatorial district. As such, I have worked closely with Diane assisting her in her efforts to promote the project, here at the state level. However, my role in this effort was not simply that of an elected official assisting a constituent--- but as a person who earnestly feels that the part these brave and dedicated women played during the Vietnam War is grievously ignored by the existing memorial.

I was further frustrated upon learning that, apparently, the FAC did not even attempt to review the artistic merit of the statue, even though they are mandated to do so by law. Even if this specific role of the FAC were not mandated by law, one would have supposed, that in a room crowded with supporters of the project, common courtesy would have prevailed, and that the members would have made some attempt to assess the merits of the project, artistic and otherwise, instead of showing a total lack of regard for the artwork, itself, and for the thousands of men and women who have worked so hard to make this project a reality.

In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that I was absolutely astounded by remarks apparently attributed to you, sir, wherein you drew a comparison between the role of women in the services and that of the CANINE Corps during the Vietnam War. Such a comparison will not soon be forgotten by women who were then, and are now, part of the military.

Mr. J. Carter Brown
November 11, 1987
Page No. Two

Finally, I would ask that you and the members of the Commission reflect upon the damage that will be done by the denial of this project, and of the good that could have been accomplished, had you only the foresight to give the project the approval which it deserves.

Sincerely,

JEH:dwk

cc: President Ronald Reagan
Hon. Robert Kasten
Hon. Steve Gunderson
Hon. Dave Durenberger
Mr. Charles Atherton
Secretary Hodel
D-M Boulay

Dear Mr Brown,

As a vietnam veteran I was
a nurse in Phu Bai for 14 mos in 1968
at the 22nd Surg Hosp. I left
my family & my profession to serve
in a far away country in a dirty
little war.

Now 20 yrs hence the memory
is to finally be rectified and you
worry about the artistic line.
If the the Vietnam Nurses are not

healed and reconciled for their
unique tribute to the war you
will alone be responsible for
a terrible injustice in history.

Let the women stand
alone in silence

to show our
devotion

PAIN

&
suffering.

Yours truly

NOV 13 11 18 AM '87
DIRECTOR'S
OFFICE

November 16, 1987

Swanbridge Va

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

Mr. Brown,

Okay - so you don't want a statue of a woman to grace the Vietnam Memorial gardens. I can accept that as your current position.

But I can not accept the message you're sending to the public along with your position.

It is my personal perception that you have a very limited knowledge base regarding the Vietnam Experience as it pertains to women. How else could you make such an insensitive remark about the "Canine Corps" wanting to be honored next? Do you have any idea how cruel that remark is to those of us who want to have a statue in the gardens? I certainly don't expect that you'll ever fully comprehend the burden of painful memories I and women like

any with us. but why do you have to take cheap shots at us? Do you have any appreciation how long and hard we with the Vietnam Women's Project have worked to send the message to women who served in and during Vietnam that they need not be ashamed of admitting such service? And all it takes is a careless remark like yours to undo much that we have tried to restore.

I invite you to read some women's stories. Read "Dusty's" story in Laura Holmeri Skapnel of the Heart, for example. Read Kathryn Marshall's In the Combat Zone or Kath Walker's A Piece of My Heart. And then assess if you truly believe, as you told a Connecticut journalist, that the "group is pursuing the matter to gain attention." Better yet, I invite you to actually listen to what women Vietnam Veterans have to share about their experiences. Talk to the caring friends, family, and counsels — if these women who can enlighten you on the subject of whether or not the "healing is complete."

urge you to become better informed about the proposed "generic" memorial to all military women. Call Mr. O'Connell to Wilson's attention. Determine the facts for yourself. What inspired the legislation? What is the realistic timetable for completion? What is the feasibility of accomplishment of fund raising? Those who already know the facts find a striking similarity between your remark: "Let them be honored elsewhere" and Marie Antoinette's "Let them have cake."

The women, of whom you said during the Free Art Commission hearing, should, by virtue of their laudable human qualities, "be able to identify with the figures of the three fighting men", will probably, by virtue of these same human qualities be able to forgive. Most will be able to forgive the offending remarks comparing them to dogs, to forgive the original error of omission, and forgive the obvious lack of information on the part of the voting members. (including the lack of information regarding the United Nations interest on the part of the non-voting members.) Most will

only says he able to forgive the pre-committed
the first time around.

I can personally forgive being referred to as
an unwanted "design element." When I was
vacuuming rice paddy water from a injured
soldier's lungs no one referred to me or any of the
women with whom I served that way - but
I can forgive it now. No one accused us of
wrongfully "intruding" on the delicate tension
that existed between the fighting men and the
nurses of those who died. In fact there were
some who suggested that it was precisely because
we dared to intrude on that very process that
our service was so vitally important.

I can forgive being referred to as an "afterthought."
I have heard V.W.M. proponents refer to the statue
as an "afterthought." In the same breath they speak
of "apology" and "embarrassment" at the earlier
oversight. Perhaps if you allow yourself to look
more carefully, you will begin to sense the real
impact "invisibility" of women during the war itself.

(5.)

begin to appreciate the subsequent silence
that surrounded the women's appearance.

My hope is that by the time the V.W.M.P.
pays a return visit to the Senate Commission,
you will have all used yourself to become
better informed and more sensitized to the
issue of honoring the women who served in
Vietnam.

In the meantime, I urge you to refrain
from the use of demeaning hurtful analogies
to scout dogs that undercut the spirit and
dignity of women who deserve to have their
contributions elucidated and validated rather
than trivialized and belittled.

With utmost respect,

Long Fern

America Remembers!



**Coalition For The Full
Accounting Of All POW/MIA's**

902 Poplar Court
Bensalem, PA. 19020
(215) 245-6579

NOV 5 1987

November 1, 1987

Dear Mr. Brown,

Our Organization is dedicated to our POW/MIA'S, we very rarely waiver from this issue, but it seems that we now must take exception to that rule.

It appears that you, as well as your commissioners do not realize the support that the Vietnam Womens Memorial Project has, I speak of grass roots support, the kind that counts.

I am writting to you now because since your decision I have had to check some facts before presenting this to our board. After hearing these facts the board voted 100% to back our sisters.

I hope that you as the chairman, and all of the Commissioners on the fine arts committee will put away personal feelings and reconsider your decision. I am sure that minor differences can be worked out and as an organization as well as veterans we hope this will take place soon.

This letter is sent to you as official notice that the Coalition for the Full Accounting of All POW/MIA'S by a vote of 9 to 0 has, and will back the Vietnam Womens Memorial Project and will do everything to insure that they are honored as we were.

A copy of this letter will be forwarded to the President Of The United States and to each of our members across this great country of ours.

Sincerely,

Mr. Charles Atherton
Secretary
Fine Arts Commission
708 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20006

4 Nov 1987

Brunswick, ME

Dear Mr Atherton:

As a Disabled Veteran who served two tours in Vietnam as the pilot of a helicopter gunship, and was wounded twice I find the decision of the Fine Arts Commission considering the Vietnam Women's Memorial to be personally insulting, degrading to all veterans and beneath the dignity of a Commission such as yours.

I am writing to my Senators and Representatives to not only support said memorial, but also to bring about all possible political pressure to force a public apology for views stated during this fiasco and an immediate investigation of your Commission

I can only wonder where you found a rock large enough to hide under when the last few wars were being fought.

Sincerely,

Joseph

JAF/11c

Beverly

✓

Capistrano Beach, California

November 1, 1987

Mr. J. Carter Brown
Director, National Gallery of Art
6th St. and Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20565

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am heartsick, and very angered at the decision of the Fine Arts Commission regarding the rejection of the proposal to include a statue of a woman as an integral part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

During the past year, I have talked with many women's groups about the Vietnam's Women's Memorial Project; women whose ages ranged from high school students (March Women's History Month is a most suitable time) to widows of WWI veterans.

The role of women in wartime can no longer be ignored. I urge you to reconsider your decision.

Sincerely yours,



Virginia

Franklinville, New York

November 1, 1987

Mr. J. Carter Brown

Director

National Gallery of Art

6th St. and Constitution Ave, NW

Washington, D.C. 20565

Dear Mr. Brown:

One of the nurses who was killed during the Vietnam War was an alumna of D'Guville College, my alma mater. The plight and fate of nurses during war time became very vivid to me at that time. That, and the fact that my brother served in Vietnam during the war, have made me a supporter of the addition to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial honoring the women who have served.

Please reconsider the decision of the

Pine Arts Commission regarding this addition,
and let future generations see that we
honor the memory of all who fought
and served in the war.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

RECEIVED
NOV 4 1 47 AM '87
DIRECTOR'S
OFFICE

✓

November 7, 1987
Madison, WI

Dear Sir:

I was very disappointed to hear that the Fine Arts Commission, on Oct. 22, ignoring the advice of its own staff, rejected the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project plan to add a statue of a woman to complete the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.

I am a disabled Vietnam-era Air Force veteran and a strong supporter of the Project. My husband, also a Vietnam-era veteran, and our two children, John 16, and Meigan 11, visited Washington, D.C. on our summer vacation and visited the Vietnam Memorial. While we agree that the Wall, The Three Fighting Men, and the American flag are impressive, they certainly don't acknowledge the many thousand women who also served and sacrificed during that troubled era.

Because of the way the military and the Veterans Administration are projected and perceived, most Americans, especially non-veterans, know very little of women's contributions to our military effort, not only during the Vietnam era, but since revolutionary times.

It is therefore not surprising that many women vets do not broadcast the fact that they served in the military. There still remain many unhealthy stereotypes of what a woman who choses to serve in the military is. Our country has never publicly elevated these women to the same heights as their fellow male soldiers and sailors. (True, in the last three to four years, there has been a national Women Veterans Recognition Week, but outside the VA community, most citizens never heard of it.)

As a mother and a veteran, I would like to see a woman's statue added to the Vietnam Memorial for myself, my children, and the many, many other women who served with me. I want to feel good about my service and I want others to know in a tangible way they can't ignore, that women also served. A statue placed as the Project suggests would do that.

I also take exception to several of the comments made by the FAC commissioners. I can't believe Mr. J. Carter Brown said if they allow a statue of a woman, they'll have to add other statues, such as to the canine corps. Not only is it a slap in the face for all women veterans to be equated with trained dogs, but his callous statement clearly is indicative of the prevailing ignorant attitudes towards women's service and points to the clear fact that the statue is needed.

As a veterans counselor for the state of Wisconsin, I, along with my colleagues, was also dismayed the FAC said the healing is complete. They need to wake up and smell the coffee. We have thousands of Vietnam veterans who are walking time bombs, suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a result of the horrors they experienced in Vietnam. The VA hospital wards handle what they can, but it is now over ten years since the war ended and twenty-three years since it started, and many of these vets, male and female, still don't have their shattered lives back together. Others have taken their own lives or are imprisoned for violent PTSD-related crimes. I wish the healing was complete and I wish the simple placement of a statue could complete the healing, but I'm not going to kid myself. But a statue can be the beginning of the healing process.

The vets I know, male and female, and from all service periods support the statue. The women would like recognition for their service, and the men remember that many of them wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for the care they received from the women. Others worked side-by-side with women in a variety of occupations and feel badly that the women's contributions have been ignored.

I also found it interesting that none of the commissioners was a veteran. They can't understand what vets feel and they would be better off listening to those who do. The statue has wide support among the American people and that is who the commission should be serving. I do congratulate commissioner Roy Goodman for standing alone and voting to support the placement of the statue at the Vietnam Memorial.

I can only hope that the FAC's action generates enough response so the commission reverses its poorly thought out decision. Certainly, the Women's Memorial Project and the people who support it will not give up. THERE WILL BE A STATUE OF A WOMAN AT THE WALL.

I also hope Mr. Brown receives a severe reprimand for his insulting remarks. He should publicly apologize to all of America. Women are not dogs, nor is the subject of the statue a topic for jest. Public employees at his level should be fired for such blatant chauvinistic comments.

I also wish the commissioners would spend a day on a VA PTSD ward and then decide if the healing is complete. Where have these guys been?

I would appreciate hearing your views on this topic and what you will be doing to facilitate placement of the woman's statue at the Vietnam Memorial in our nation's capital.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours.

Mona

Madison, WI

11-5-87

Senator Alan Cranston
U. S. Senate Building
Washington, D C
20510

Congressman Douglas Bosco
Congressional Office Building
Washington, D C
20515

RE: Vietnam Women's Memorial Project.

Dear Senator Cranston and Congressman Bosco:

I, regrettably, must admit to not being up on some "current events." A fine lady, who grew old during her service as a Red Cross "Donut Dollie" in Vietnam, advised me there is Zero identifiable recognition of the contribution of several thousand women who served our country during this period of its history at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D. C.

Regardless of my present sentiments about our involvement-at that time I fully supported the situation-the singular lack of acknowledgment of the women who served in support of American foreign policy is appalling. Our nursing corp., both assigned and volunteer, and the support staff who served in other areas deserve group recognition for their efforts. As I understand this particular war, and its fluid nature, there was no 'behind the lines.' I've watched Penni, a co-worker, take years to grow out of the worst of her memories of dealing with her Vietnam experience and the possibly pointless nature of being involved with a no win war which involved several hundred thousand of our youth.

Penni shared with me her concerns over the status of the placement of a women's statue at the memorial which, we understand, has been turned down by the Fine Arts Commission. Reading the "reasons for rejection" turns my heart cold:

"The Memorial is complete"....do these individuals not watch television?

"The healing process is complete"....I would suggest members of the Fine Arts Commission spend a weekend at the Memorial site and convince the Veterans and their families the "process is complete."

"Allowing additional statues would open the door for other requests...such as one for canine corps"....Give the public a break for heavens sake. I try to give my fellow human beings credit for intelligence but I ask the same consideration in return.

"The statue of the men represents the women's contributions"....
God help us all to understand the 'logic' of this point of
reference.

Etc.

As your time is valuable I will be brief. The placement of this
statue is a legitimate request from several thousands of women
veterans, I share their concern.

Please.

We remain faithfully yours.

Frederick

Santa Rosa, California

cc: President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D C

J. Carter Brown, Director
National Gallery of Arts
6th Street and Constitution Ave N. W.
Washington D C 20565

Mr. Charles Atherton
Fine Arts Commission
708 Jackson Place
Washington, D C 20006



Margaret

Hudson, FL

Nov. 11, 1987

Mr. J. Carter Brown, Director
National Gallery of Art
6th Street and Constitution Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20566

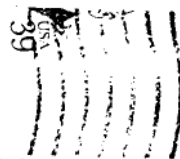
Dear Mr. Brown,

This letter is written in loving memory of my daughter, the late Lt. Margaret Ann "Peggy" Rose who served her Country for a year as a nurse at Chu Li in Vietnam, and was a staunch supporter of the "Vietnam Veterans Women's Memorial".

Peggy was 41 when she died of cancer on June 11, 1986 leaving a 14 year old son. She was interred in Fort Lincoln Cemetery, Brentwood, Md.

I am a 5th generation "Washingtonian". That's where my roots are and much family history. At the time of my Daughter's funeral, the family visited the "Wall", and for the first time we saw the Vietnam Memorial.

(1)



"three male figures" representing, in one fashion or another, a cross-section of our Service Men who served in Vietnam.

I am deeply troubled, offended and disappointed by the Time Arts Commission's October 22, 1987 re-fiction of the proposal to complete the Vietnam Veterans Memorial with the "Statue of a woman". This war, above all wars, was the one in which our Nurses served practically on the front lines.

What an opportunity for "This Commission" to integrate the "recognition of Women" into an existing monument!!

35
11/11/87

What an opportunity for "This Commission" to so honor "the woman" with their approval for the addition to the Vietnam Memorial.

I pray that the Commission will have a change of heart and reconsider their decision.

I also pray that I will be able to be in attendance at the dedication of this most deserved addition to a very moving and awesome memorial.

The Healing is not yet over!!

Sincerely,

xc- Charles Atherton, Sec'y

Ms. Paschal Rigan
Neil Porterfield
Carolyn Beaver
Frederick Hart

Deane Wolf
Ray Goodman
(3)

President Ronald Reagan
Senator Bob Graham
Congressman Mike Bilirakis
Donald Hodel

WILLIAM

SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA

October 26, 1987

J. Carter Brown
Chairman
National Gallery of Art
Sixth & Constitution, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20565

Dear Mr. Brown:

I write to bring to your attention the grievous mistake the Fine Arts Commission has made in turning down the Women's Vietnam Memorial.

I am a former editor-in-chief of Newsweek magazine and a Vietnam veteran who has written about the Vietnam Memorial for Newsweek, U.S. News & World Report and Reader's Digest. I was also on the board of the New York Vietnam Memorial commission, and helped choose the design for the New York memorial.

But more to the immediate point I am the co-creator of China Beach, a two-hour pilot from Warner Brothers which is scheduled to air on ABC early next year. Its main characters are three women in Vietnam, and its inevitable and welcome effect will be to focus national attention on the women who served there.

It would be a shame if the Fine Arts Commission were seen to have blocked a proper memorial to these women, whose service was from the most selfless of motives. They did not go to war to kill but to heal.

They are heroes in the best sense and represent the best qualities of America. They were there, day in and day out, year in and year out, for those of us who served in Vietnam. We should be there for them today.

In the past few years this country has come so far toward putting the war behind us. Do not, by blocking this fitting memorial, open the war's wounds again.

It is hard for me to imagine a single reasonable argument against this memorial, particularly now that we have Mr. Hart's fine statue of three male veterans. I can only suggest with all respect that you re-examine your position.

And if you do not choose to reverse your vote, I can only say that the battle for this worthy memorial will be joined, and I myself would not want to be on the side that opposes it.

Yours sincerely,

cc: Commission of Fine Arts:

Pascal Regan
Frederick Hart
Neil Porterfield
Carolyn Deaver
Diane Wolf
Roy Goodman

Mr J.Carter Brown
Director
National Gallery of Art
6th Street & Constitution Ave
Washington D.C. 20565

Dear Mr J Carter Brown

Nov 2, 1987

I am the mother of a Vietnam Veteran, who also happens to be a woman. I was with her in 1982 at the dedication of THE WALL, and I know the healing that took place in her life at that time. I also know that the healing is not over for her. She still has a recurring nightmare that she can't come home. Her dream is that she is at the Flight Line to board the Freedom Bird, but for some reason they won't let her on, and she is left behind in a county that is not hers. I was hoping that the dedication of the Womens Memorial at the WALL would be the end for her, but it seem you do not want that to happen since the Fine Arts Commission did not approve the Projects Memorial to be placed at the Wall.

I found your reasons to be offensive to me and I am sure to my daughter, who by the way is very much a lady, not represented by the THREE FIGHTING MEN.

I believe the FAC had done a grave injustice to the women who served in that unpopular war, and think the commission should without delay reverse their decision and give the Project the approval it needs to place the womans statue at the Wall.

Respectfully

DOROTHY

MELBOURNE FL

Mr. J. Carter Brown
Director
National Fine Arts Commission
National Gallery of Art
6th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20565

Dear Mr. Brown,

As Viet Nam Veterans, we recognize the dedication and sacrifice of the women who served during the Viet Nam War.

We feel that the memorial statue 'NURSE', sculpted by Rodger M. Brodin, best reflects that dedication and sacrifice, and would be a fitting completion to the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Anything that you can do to expedite the equal placement of the 'NURSE', in conjunction with the works of Maya Lin and Frederick Hart, would be deeply appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

For privacy signatures omitted



SCOTT & WHITE

November 17, 1987

Charles Atherton
Secretary
Fine Arts Commission
708 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Atherton:

On behalf of the American Nurses' Association (ANA), I am writing to request the Fine Arts Committee's reconsideration of the Vietnam Women's Memorial proposed as part of the Vietnam War Memorial in Constitution Gardens in Washington, D.C.

As you are aware, less than 10,000 women served in Vietnam, most of them nurses in the Army, Navy or Air Force. To my knowledge there has been no public recognition of their professional contributions, much of which enabled our men serving in Vietnam to fulfill their call of duty.

I see this as not a nursing's or women's honor to their own, but a national, public effort, supported by members of the American Legion, Congress, the Vietnam Veteran's of American, retired military leaders, the American Academy of Physician Assistants, and educators, all of whom support the project's goal of unveiling the memorial statue on Veterans' Day 1988. It is the efforts of volunteers that have raised money and awareness about the project that have brought us so far.

I urge you to reconvene the committee to continue its discussions about the Vietnam Women's Memorial. The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial allowed the healing process to begin for the millions who served their country, the Vietnam Women's Memorial will give that healing added strength.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

/lln

SCOTT AND WHITE
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
AND SCOTT, SHERWOOD
AND BRINDLEY
FOUNDATION

2401 South 31st St.

Temple, Texas 76508

817/774-2111

✓
Tucson, AZ -----
Nov. 11, 1987

Mr. Charles Atherton
Secretary
Fine Arts Commission
708 Jackson Place NW
Washington D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Atherton,

I understand that a proposed statue dedicated to the role of women in Vietnam, particularly the medical personnel, was rejected by the Fine Arts Commission on Oct. 22, 1987. I am writing in support of the project and urge you and your commission to reconsider.

The Commission's refusal to include a statue of a women in the Vietnam Memorial is outrageous and dismisses their vital contribution of saving countless lives during the war. Lives, I might add, that would have been lost and become names added to the long, long list of the dead on the Vietnam Memorial itself.

I understand the Commission considers the Vietnam Memorial complete. That they consider the "healing process" of the war complete. I submit they have no right to make this judgement when these women feel their service has been unrecognized. I realize the difficulty of meeting the needs of all groups at the Memorial site. But consider the fact that the women in Vietnam performed an extraordinary service. They saved lives and offered hope when little could be found. They loved, they cried and they nourished thousands of soldiers who were in pain and were dying. Their issue is not one of selfish need. They deserve the honor of having their memorial a part of the Vietnam Memorial. They deserve recognition apart from the men.

You say the artist of the memorial, as it was originally designed, is offended and rejects the proposal also. Well, what are we talking about here? We're talking about women who lived the horrors of war that few women in our country have ever experienced. These women went to WAR! while the rest of us remained at home. How can we deny them a special tribute? Is what they did so unimportant that it can be ignored?

I agree with you that something should be done for all the women who have served through our history in the various war efforts. I agree they should have a special memorial in Arlington Cemetery. The fact that they do not is absolutely shameful. Let's do something about that issue also! But, for now, the women of Vietnam are in need. The government does little enough to recognize them. As a nation, they deserve much more from us. Please don't deny them what we owe them. It is the responsibility of all of us to be certain the men and women who serve our country be recognized and appreciated for every duty they have performed and every sacrifice they have made.

The Vietnam Memorial has already been modified by the addition of the infantrymen statue and there is little reason why the Memorial can't be changed again. Recognition of the women who served in Vietnam is appropriate and honorable. It is totally dishonorable for our country and government to ignore their worthy service.

I ask for your support. Please, sir, reconsider the decision of your commission and allow this statue to be erected at the Vietnam Memorial site on Veterans Day, 1990.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia

MOVIE STILL ARCHIVES

TOM CONROY

142 LINCOLN AVE. - ROOM #797 • SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO - 87501

505/988-2399

11-16-87

FINE ARTS COMMISSION:

I JUST HEARD ABOUT YOUR REFUSING
THE NURSE'S STATUE FOR THE VIETNAM
VETERANS MEMORIAL. I AM NOT A
VIETNAM VETERAN, BUT I AM A TAX
PAYER WHO FEELS I HAVE THE RIGHT
TO EXPRESS MY OWN OPINION ABOUT
THE MATTER.

I AM SPEAKING AS AN OUTRAGED
CITIZEN WHEN I SAY"—YOU BASTARDS
CAN KISS MY ASS!"

SINCERELY YOURS

P.S. IT IS PEOPLE LIKE YOU THAT MAKE
ME ASHAMED OF MY COUNTRY.

HANG YOU HEADS
IN SHAME, ASSHOLES



Battle Creek MI

9 Nov 1987

Mr. J. Carter Brown
Director, Natl Gallery of Art
6th and Constitution Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Brown:

On October 22, 1987 you, personally, as a member of the Fine Arts Commission, suffered a grave injustice to be inflicted upon the "real-life experiences" of veterans who served in the Vietnam War. You failed to acknowledge that within those real-life experiences existed "women", who, serving as veterans themselves, gave to other veterans ... either through Florence Nightingale roles, combat-support roles, or sacrifice of their own lives ... comfort, encouragement, example, motivation, patriotism, spirit and teamwork in the name of "freedom and peace". You, (quite probably) like others who have never served in our nation's Armed Forces, seem all too willing to either minimize, or to continue to address only the vestiges of, those real-life experiences. Yet, for those who lived through them, those experiences are only yesterday or yesterday's yesterday ... as they often relive them every day; the "healing process" is not complete. If you would care enough to take the time, there are countless number of "men" Vietnam Veterans who can "testify" to the very "real-life" contributions of "women" Vietnam Veterans.

You were able to take the stand you did with a "clear conscience", proudly defending the "abstract art, representing all humanity" of your previously approved statue of Vietnam Veterans. The curious quality of abstract art is that it "has only intrinsic form, with little or no attempt at pictorial representation". The curious quality of a statue is that it is "a likeness (as of a person ...)". The current statue is neither abstract "by definition" nor through observance of the reactions of those who experienced the emotions "detailed" into the faces and bodies of the "men" in that statue; it truly represents "reality" ... as it "involuntarily" exudes emotional responses from the Vietnam Veterans who daily visit it. That the statue represents such reality is evidenced by the detail through which the sculptor recreated each man. Although the sculptor may deny the "reality" of the statue, had he truly intended it be "abstract", the detail would have been absent.

Therefore, since the "weight of the evidence" is that the statue, both by definition, result, and experience, is not "abstract" and is representing "reality", it should "fully represent" that "reality". An integral role (i.e., tied into the very fabric of everyday life and experience) in the "reality" of the Vietnam War was played by "women"; that role should be "confirmed" as well as "evidenced" by incorporating into the current statue the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project's proposed statue.

Coincidentally, History, one of the Liberal "Art"s, pictures for us events that have happened from which lessons are to be learned and applied toward the betterment of human existence. If we choose to ignore or to apply these lessons, we fail humanity. Therefore, why must you choose to ignore and apply such lessons. It took Congress almost 30 years to rightfully recognize "women" and "minorities" for their contributions/roles during the "reality" of WWII. Must you repeat such "parochialism, shortsightedness, and functional illiteracy"? "Reality" evidences you have not effectively served humanity on this issue.

I encourage you to learn from the liberal arts and to accept the proposed Vietnam Women's statue as an effective means of rightfully recognizing the contributions/roles of "women" Vietnam Veterans ... NOW ... when humanity is best served.

JAMES

Copy to:

Donald Model
Secretary of the Interior
18th and C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

RECEIVED



UNITED VETERANS OF AMERICA NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS



National Mailing Address : Box 460 , Excel Alabama Zip + 36439 Tel (205) 765 - 2609

From The Desk Of:
Barry A. Krupkin
Supreme National Commander

November 1, 1987

To: Mr. J. Carter Brown
The Honorable Director
National Gallery Of Art
6th Street & Constitution Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. Zip + 20565

Re: The Vietnam Women.s Memorial Project Inc.

Dear Mr. J. Carter Brown:

Sir a matter of great concern to me and our membership has come to my attention, I understand that recently the National Gallery Of Art, and the Fine Arts Commission voted against providing its full support for establishing a Vietnam Women,s Memorial.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a short story , as a 100% service connected disabled veteran who served in the Airborne and Special Forces and who was very severely wounded from massive combat wounds I received in Vietnam I want you to know that I owe my life to the fine women nurses at the evacuation center several who operated and worked for hours to save my life from the massive mortal wounds I received, if I only knew their names I would recommend each for our Nations highest honor the Medal of Honor.

I shall always have bad dreams of the hundreds of wounded being rushed into the evacuation center center on that very horable evening of death, yet with great courage our proud women nurses saved thousands of lives in spite of all the horrors, these women saw first hand the broken bodies, the heads blown off, the arms and legs missing , the guts blown out I often wondered how these very brave women could withstand seeing such massive suffering day in and day out.

We as a Nation have greatly over looked the service of our Nations women, I have always known that our women have been over looked and not represented, without question this must be corrected I point out that the Memorial is not complete, Never in the minds of Vietnam Veterans to include our women will the healing process ever be over nor complete, I tell you Sir here and I tell you now more will come into play than just the Flag, The Wall and the present Statue of just our men.

I would like to point out that if we as a people have forgot any party or sector of those who served in the Vietnam War, then we as a Nation and People owe it to our children and History to see to it that all parties are properly represented.

Sir if you think that you did not serve in the Vietnam War, I tell you now that you did, because all things yet to come to pass, has or will be effected by those who served in the Vietnam War, I shall be sending a copy of this letter of request that you support this worthy project , it is never to late to change your mind and stand up with me as a proud free American and show our combined support for this worthy project copies shall go to U.S. Senators and Congressmen seeking to inlist their support, you now know where I stand on this issue I ask you to please support this project, May God Bless you and Thank you in Advance for your every consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

✓
8 Nov 87

Mr. Charles Atherton
Secretary
Fine Arts Commission
708 Jackson Place NW
Washington D.C. 20006

Sir:

The Fine Arts Commission's decision to disallow the inclusion of a woman in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial SUCKS. Whatever the rationale for rejection was, it was inadequate.

As a veteran of two years of combat in Vietnam, I can assure you that the proposed figure of a female nurse comes a lot closer to the spirit of the original

(over)

memorial than the three soldiers
who have already been added.

Is it really true that the
Washington bureaucrats, who got
us into this war in the first
place, are now going to dictate
the form of our memorial as
well. Do something POSITIVE
for us ~

APPROVE THE VIETNAM
WOMENS MEMORIAL PROJECT

Sincerely,

St Petersburg JFL.

MARGARET
SPRINGFIELD, VA 22153

Mr. J. Carter Brown, Director
National Gallery of Art
6th Street & Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20565

Dear Mr. Brown:

The Commission on Fine Arts' rejection of the Vietnam Womens Memorial appears to have been based upon misinformation and a lack of due consideration. The conclusion that there are no feasible sites at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial "adequate" to honor the women who served was the ultimate in condescension. The suggestion that Vietnam's women veterans wait for a generic memorial which will be miles from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is indicative of where the real ghettoization of women's service will take place. It certainly isn't the proposed site with their brothers at the memorial.

Why not enhance visitors' experience of the memorial?
Why not recognize that women serve and suffer in war?
I'm tired of hearing men say that because the Department of Defense doesn't "allow" women to be combat infantrymen, that women do not experience combat conditions. American women were wounded and killed in Vietnam -- while trying to save the lives of young men!

Where is it stated in Mr. Hart's earlier testimony concerning the selection of his statue that the three fighting men are representational of humankind? Therein lies a real afterthought.

I have the impression that the Commissioners think the flow of visitors is from Constitution Avenue, by the Wall, and out by the statue and flag pole. This is not the case. Specified parking for the memorial is to the south. Tour buses park to the south. Tour mobiles pick up and discharge passengers at the Lincoln Memorial. Visitors, especially tourists, tend to go to the apex of the memorial or a little farther, then turn around and buck the traffic back to their mode of transportation.

To extend the path from the memorial on the Consitution side would encourage visitors to continue the flow and exit the Wall area, circling by the women's statue and Mr. Hart's statue on the way out.

The view of the Wall from the proposed site is an outstanding one, not often seen, "because it would take a map to get there" without the completion of the path. Mr. Doubek and Ms. Corbin have indicated that their favorite view of the memorial is the one least likely to be seen, and I suspect it is very close to the site they opposed in the October 22nd meeting.

I encourage the Commission to reconsider its decision, giving careful cosideration to all the facts, and allow women Vietnam veterans to be recognized by the memorial for the war in which they served. There is healing yet to be done.

Sincerely,

Margaret

*P.S. If recognizing women is the same
as recognizing scout dogs, consider
yourself bitten!*

Mr. U. Carter Brown
Director
National Gallery of Art
6th St. and Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20565

4 Nov 1987

Brunswick, ME

Dear Mr Brown:

As a Disabled Veteran who served two tours in Vietnam as the pilot of a helicopter gunship, and was wounded twice I find your comments before the Fine Arts Commission considering the Vietnam Women's Memorial to be personally insulting, degrading to all veterans and beneath the dignity and supposed intelligence of a person holding your position.

I am writing to my Senators and Representatives to not only support said memorial, but also to bring about all possible political pressure to force a public apology and your immediate dismissal.

I can only wonder where you found a rock large enough to hide under when the last few wars were being fought.

Sincerely,

Joseph

JAF/11c

Houston, TX
December 2, 1988

J. Carter Brown
The Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Brown:

I support the Commission of Fine Arts. I think they shouldn't put the nurses statue near the Wall.

First, if the statue is placed near the Wall, other people or organizations would want to be represented by a statue, too. Someone might want to put a statue of a dog there because many dogs died during the war.

Furthermore, the Commission of Fine Arts would have to pay about \$1,000,000 to finance the project.

For the reasons above, I disagree with

the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project.
I want to thank you for standing up
and not letting them put the statue
there. Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

We, the undersigned, wish to urge you to support and acknowledge the 15,000 women who served in the Vietnam war by allotting space on the two acre grounds of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. for the statue created by Roger Dean.

For privacy signatures omitted

		✓
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2 November 1988

J. Carter Brown
Director of Fine Arts Commission
National Gallery of Art
6th Street and Constitution Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20565

Dear Mr. Brown:

I was an Army nurse during the Viet Nam conflict and have visited the Viet Nam Memorial.

I have great respect and admiration for Ms. Lin's design. It's symbolism says what many of us feel. I had mixed feelings when the statue was added. I cannot, however, accept the addition of another statue. We, as women, volunteered to serve and help. I have always received respect and admiration for my role and don't feel a statue of an Army nurse is needed. If so, yes, we should have one of the Red Cross and USO ladies, the Canine Corps, the ladies who served in a non-nursing capacity and all those minorities that served (who didn't volunteer and have no respect for what they did).

The simplicity and elegance will be cluttered with memorabilia. Please leave alone what started out as a genuine project of respect, solemnity and love, and let us reflect, cry, heal and never forget!

Sincerely,

Mary

San Francisco, CA



COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

NOV 4 1988

Rossmoor Federated Women's Club

October 30, 1988

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

Dear Members,

We were pleased to learn that both the Senate and the House of Representatives have voted for placing a statue of a woman at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. It is long over due; an honor in memorial of all the women who loyally served our country in a tumultuous time in our history.

Our membership has been very interested in the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project; and many have actively supported it in several ways.

We would like the Commission to know that our members (400 strong) are solidly behind this project.

Sincerely,

RECEIVED
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

FEB 17 1989

February 14, 1989

Hon. J. Carter Brown
708 Jackson Place N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Brown:

Many former supporters of the Vietnam Womens Memorial Project are sickened by the actions of the small group of women who seized control of the Project.

Their agenda is not the agenda the Project was founded on. They are not honorable people.

Protect the Vietnam Veterans Memorial from the political activist things they intend to use it for but won't tell you about.

The veterans who care are counting on you.

With Thanks,

William
Sarasota, Florida

February 1, 1989

Hon. J. Carter Brown
3035 Dumbarton Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Mr. Brown:

When you decide where to put the new memorial for the women Vietnam vets, please put it with the other memorial for all women. It would be a travesty to change the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Very Truly Yours,

Sandra
St. Petersburg, Florida

February 3, 1989

Hon. J. Carter Brown
3035 Dumbarton Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Mr. Brown:

The Vietnam Memorial should not be exploited by allowing it to become a focal point for narrow feminist and other political interests as is the intent of the small group who seized control of the Vietnam Womens Memorial Project last May.

REJECT ANY ADDITION TO THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL!

Place the womens Vietnam memorial that the 100th Congress authorized at the previously authorized womens memorial.

Thank you..

George
Bradenton, Florida

February 2, 1989

Hon. J. Carter Brown
3035 Dumbarton Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Mr. Brown:

Please do not add another sculpture to the Vietnam Memorial.
Find some other nice place for a memorial to the women who were
in Vietnam.

Sincerely,

Maureen
Tampa, Florida

DABY

25 October 1987

J. Carter Brown, Director
Natl. Gallery of Art
6th & Constituion Ave. NW
Washington, D.C 20565

Dear Mr. Brown,

I was deeply disappointed when I read that the federal Commission on Fine Arts rejected plans to add a statue of a woman to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. I have volunteered at the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project and although I am not a veteran, I support the plan to add the statue.

The statue is beautiful. Her face is pensive, gentle and thought-provoking. She is dressed in fatigues and she represents the silent battle fought by the nurses, Red Cross workers, teachers, government workers and all those who served in Vietnam. But she also represents the women who remained behind-the armed service personnel who recieved bodies on their return to the United States, the nurses who helped the wounded convalesce, and the mothers, sisters and girlfriends who welcomed home the walking wounded. And she represents the woman who are still recovering from their battle experiences and the women (wives, mothers, girlfriends and daughters) on the frontlines today interacting with the "walking wounded."

In an age when America is beginning to come to terms with "our" Vietnam, it would be sad to not consider and recognize the role of women at that time. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. will not be complete until the

service and sacrifice of all the women touched by Vietnam is recognized with the addition of the statue.

I ask and encourage you, Mr. Brown and the Commission for Fine Arts to reconsider and schedule a re-hearing as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Karen

New Hope, Mn

cc. President Ronald Reagan

Donald Hodel, Sec. of the Interior

Charles Atherton

Pascal Regan

Neil Porterfield

Carolyn Deaver

Diane Wolf

Roy Goodman

Frederick Hart

Dave Durenberger, Senator

Rudy Boschwitz, Senator

Gerry Sikorski, Congressman

Mr. J. Carter Brown, Director
National Gallery of Art
6th Street and Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D. C. 20565
Dear Mr. Brown:

I was very disappointed by the decision of the Fine Arts Commission to reject the proposal to complete the Vietnam Veterans Memorial with the statue of a woman. Your reasons were very unfounded in light of the broad support and lack of testimony from veterans' organizations, women and male veterans, mothers, wives and sisters. Actually, a woman should have been included in Mr. Hart's original statue, because women did serve in Vietnam. Men or women can never represent each other. The erection of this statue that honors women veterans would aid the healing process that was crystalized when the Vietnam Memorial was erected. I understand that not one of the Commission members ever served in the armed forces so have no knowledge of the trauma of war on all of the above mentioned. I do not know if any of you ever had a son, daughter or other relative serve in the armed forces.

I feel the statue of a woman will also pay tribute to the wives and mothers who agonized with their husbands, sons and

...serving in this war. My son was
in 1968 and was sent to Fort Campbell, Ky
he contracted Spinal Meningitis, was sent to
tham where he contracted Malaria and received a leg
wound from a shrapnel explosion. He was also
emotionally affected in ways I cannot explain.

Two decades have gone by, but many veterans are
still reliving their experiences and we mothers and wives
are still a part of this tragic war. In March, 1987,
18 years after his Vietnam service, my son was hospitalized
for 6 weeks for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder at the
Veterans Administration Center, Tomah, Wis. His nightmares
and other symptoms of stress have lessened but are
not gone. The healing has begun but is not finished.

To see that this healing can continue I urge
the commission to talk to veterans, wives and
mothers and realize that a woman's statue is really
needed at the site of the Vietnam Memorial. The women
who served in all branches of the armed services,
humanitarian organizations and the women who
waited at home deserve to be honored.

The fact that the project is being funded
totally by private individuals and organizations
attests to both its need and broad support.

I hope the Fine Arts Commission will take the
necessary action to see that the statue is erected
at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

For the mother of a son who was in
Vietnam and a daughter who served in the
Marines during the Vietnam era nothing could be
more appropriate or appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Written by Mrs.
Inman. (note)
See etc.*

NAM WIFE

You tell me that I wasn't there,
I cannot know,
I do not understand,
But, I fear, you are mistaken.

I have seen your incoming many nights,
The tossing,
Turning,
Beads of perspiration on your brow,
Until finally,
That breath of life which awakens you.

Our lives have always been shaded by
your past,
Each time your gaze becomes
A cold, blank stare
And the darkness begins again.

I have watched you try,
In desperation,
To forget,
To lose the past,
And in your attempts many a time lies
forgotten.


Together, we must build a future,
Not segregated but contingent
Upon the past.
We must conquer the uncertainty,
Despair and guilt.

Always, I have been there,
Hoping to know,
Trying to understand,
And I am damn proud!

Name withheld by request.

RECEIVED
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

MAR 1 1989



2/23/89

Tampa, Florida

Hon. J. Carter Brown
708 Jackson Place N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Brown,

Radical feminists and lesbians look forward to having a gathering place to demonstrate their political views. The Viet Nam Veterans Memorial should not be that place.

Isolate the Viet Nam womens memorial for the Viet Nam Memorial.
Keep the radicals away from the VVM.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth

Day Center For The Elderly

58-20 Little Neck Parkway
Little Neck, New York 11362
(718) 428-3131

co-sponsored by
Long Island Jewish-Hillside Medical Center
and Samuel Field YM-YWHA

Beneficiary Agencies of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies

February 4, 1988

Mr. J. Carter Brown, Director
National Gallery of Art.
6th St. and Constitution Ave NW,
Washington, D.C. 10565

Dear Mr. Brown,

We, the undersigned, represent a Current Event's group that meets at the Day Center for the Elderly in the Samuel Field "Y". In the January 1988 edition of Woman's Review we read that the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project wants to dedicate a statue in honor of the woman who served in our Military. We also read that the Fine Arts Commission rejected the memorial statue.

It is our opinion that such a memorial is long overdue. Many women have served in the military since the Civil War contributing to the war effort and supporting the men on the front line. Their work was vital because it alleviated some duties from the men so they could do their job. Many of us feel it is an act of discrimination to deny these brave and hard working women the praise they deserve. Others of us feel confused why such a fine memorial would be rejected. We feel it is about time that the women who have helped defend our nation for the last 100 years be recognized.

It is our intention to let you know that we support such a memorial and are disappointed of the rejection. We believe that if the American people speak out, their voice will be heard. Therefore, we implore you to support this fine memorial.

Sincerely,

For privacy signatures omitted

LONG ISLAND JEWISH-HILLSIDE MEDICAL CENTER

Mary McLaughlin, M.D.
Chairman, Community Medicine
Doris Lesser
Associate Divisional Administrator

Barry Rock, D.S.W.
Director of Social Work Services
Corrine Sacks, A.C.S.W.
Administrative Social Work Supervisor

SAMUEL FIELD YM-YWHA

Joan Wachtler, C.S.W.
Assistant Executive Director
Coordinator of Older
Adult Services
Susan Greenbaum, A.C.S.W.
Project Director

FM

Middleton, Wi.

20 November, 1987

DEPT OF

PRMR

Mr. Charles Atherton, Secretary
Fine Arts Commission
708 Jackson Place, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

1784 '89 NOV 27 P12:40

OFF OF THE
EXECUTIVE

Sir,

I have just received a copy of a letter from the directors of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project with the disappointing news that the Fine Arts Commission has decided that the women who served in Vietnam are not worthy of recognition and therefore the project has been rejected.

Not only because I am a veteran of the United States Marine Corps Womens Reserve of WWII, my father was a WWI Army veteran, my husband is a WWII Navy Seabee veteran, and my son is a retired officer of the U. S. Marine Corps and highly decorated Vietnam veteran, the letter demands a response to your ludicrous reasoning alone. I understand that none of you on the commission ever served your country in the armed forces. Your lack of reasonable thinking, insensitivity, and downright insulting attitude makes that apparent.

Everyone who read the letter, along with the list of your reasons for rejection, whether veterans or not, men, women, young or old were insensed beyond belief that a group of supposedly intelligent individuals could conceivably reach such conclusions.

Imagine for a moment, if you can, that you were pinned down in a fox hole by enemy fire with no one to come to your rescue. Then someone did come and your were spared. That particular soldier was there because a woman was available to free him from his former assignment so he could be out there for you. Imagine that you had been critically wounded. What would become of you had there not been a highly skilled nurse there who was willing to risk her life in her line of duty and spend countless hours attending to you and others and your lives were spared? Were you not aware that women also lost their lives in Vietnam as in other wars? Many thousands of us freed men to fight in other wars. Where is our recognition?

Allow me to respond to some of the reasons why the Fine Arts Commission rejected the project:

A. You reasoned that: "The Memorial is complete".

How can it be complete? The women who served were totally ignored. They were part of that awful war also.

B. You reasoned that: "The healing process is complete".

Do you live in a cave? Do you not know any Vietnam veterans who are still suffering the terrible effects of their service and always will, or know any of their wives, parents, or children? That healing will never be complete.

Carter Brown, FAC Commissioner, stated that "If we allow a statue of a woman, we'll have to add other statues such as one for the Canine Corps".

Insulting? A slap in the face? Chauvinistic? All of the above. It only reflects the mind of its author. Incidentally, the Canine Corps did a very fine job and should be just as insulted.

D. Frederick Hart passed his opinion that "No other focal elements (other than his statue of the men, the wall, and the flag) should come into play".

From the beginning of time women have been the support behind fighting men, often beside them, and they are now recognized by the United States as bona fide, uniformed, and highly trained members of the United States Armed Forces. The space for a Vietnam Memorial is there. Why aren't the women represented?

E. You reason that: "The statue of the men represents the Women's contribution".

Since when? Men are men and women are women. The ethnic differences were recognized but they're still all men. Let women be recognized as such.

F. Two days before the meeting, the Fine Arts Commission staff advised the committee that "The site selection was the best choice at the VVM". But at the hearing, this site was rejected out of hand. They gave no opportunity to discuss alternatives."

A high-handed action, to say the least. What happened? Who intervened? Who had enough clout to cloud the minds of a collective commission, with the exception of Mr. Roy Goodman? We thank him for his sound judgement and sense of responsibility.

We understand that you made no reference to the artwork or reviewed its merits or questioned the artist, as the FAC is mandated by law to do.

I don't have the figures for the whole country, but I do know that in Wisconsin alone there are 20,000 women veterans. Some states have many more. Don't we count for something? Your reasoning is right out of the dark ages.

We hope that you will review and reconsider your own staff report, the concerns and wishes of thousands of American citizens and every major veterans' organization across the land.

Sincerely,

Copies: Fine Arts Commission
Directors, VVM Project
President Reagan
Senator Wm. Proxmire
Rep. Robert Kastenmeier
WMA, UWV, VFW, VFW Aux.

Lorraine

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

Feb. 14, 1989

Sir -

VXejA
DSS

After reading, in the Los Angeles Times of 2-14-89, about the nurses efforts to have the statue of a nurse by Roger Brodin included at the Vietnam Memorial, I was amazed at your reaction and your public statement - - "The poor nurse looks like she is about to upchuck" Very small and crude of you. And your other comments surely indicate that only your opinion in this matter must prevail!

Well, Mr. Brown, your comments and attitude clearly show you are a small, insensitive, conceited, egotistical, pompous ass.

To think you are our Director of the National Gallery of Art. Wow!

PLACE THE LADY BY THE WALL

S2042. by Congresswoman Mary Rose Oaker (D-Ohio), unanimously passed by the House and Senate, and signed by the President states: "THE VIETNAM WOMEN'S MEMORIAL PROJECT, INC. IS AUTHORIZED TO ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL ON FEDERAL LAND TO HONOR WOMEN WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE VIETNAM ERA". The intent of Congress is that "IT WOULD BE FITTING AND APPROPRIATE TO PLACE THE MEMORIAL WITHIN THE 2.2 ACRE SITE OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL.

I Support the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, Inc. choice of the statue by Rodger Brodin and ask that you approve both the statue and the site requested by The Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, Inc.



PHOTO: JO LAWRENCE

NAME

CITY

STATE

For Privacy signatures omitted

February 2, 1989

RECEIVED
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

FEB 10 1989

Mr. Charles Atherton
708 Jackson Place N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Atherton:

I urge you not to add any sculpture or in any way alter the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

I take this position because as a long time supporter of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam Womens Memorial Project I am angered and disgusted by the lack of integrity, honesty and managerial and financial responsibility that the people who took control of the VWMP last May have demonstrated.

A measure of their lack of integrity and honesty is the way control of the Project was seized. The takeover was accomplished by threatening to destroy the Project and filing a lawsuit against the Board of Directors. The lawsuit was dropped four days later and a subsequent audit and investigation showed the allegations contained in the lawsuit to be false. Those who filed the lawsuit have admitted that they knew there were no improprieties prior to filing the lawsuit.

Many volunteers who know those people are concerned that they intend to exploit and politicize the Project and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial for reasons that are personal and not honorable.

Since the takeover last May there has been a decline in the grass roots support for the Project because of decisions made by the new leadership. The original Executive Director and her replacement have resigned as well as the Administrative Assistant, Volunteer Manager, Corporate Counsel and three members of the Board of Directors. Because of the lawsuit and attendant adverse publicity and other decisions made by the new "leadership" grants of \$590,000 from corporations and foundations have been lost. There is a great concern that this group will not be able to complete what they start.

Congress abdicated its responsibility to the citizens of this country to act in a prudent manner when they delegated to the new VWMP leadership the authority to alter the Vietnam Memorial.

It is now incumbent upon you to take a strong leadership stance in preserving the integrity of the Vietnam Memorial.

Sincerely,

Ellen
Arlington, VA and St. Petersburg, FL

RECEIVED
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

FEB 8 1989

January 30, 1988

Hon. J. Carter Brown
708 Jackson Place N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Brown,

Don't tamper with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The women who served in Vietnam deserve their monument but not at the price of changing our Memorial.

Sincerely,

J.
Vietnam Vet, Clearwater, Florida

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

FEB 9 1989

FEBRUARY 6, 1989

Mr. Charles Atherton
708 Jackson Place N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

DEAR Mr. Atherton:

THE FINE ARTS COMMISSION HAS A DUTY TO PROTECT OUR NATIONS
CAPITOL FROM THE EXCESSES THAT CONGRESS, FOR POLITICAL REASONS,
FORCE ON IT.

A RECENT EXAMPLE IS THE BILL SPONSERED THE THE VIETNAM WOMEN'S
PROJECT AND PASSED BY CONGRESS IN AN ELECTION YEAR.

I URGE THE COMMISSION TO TAKE A STAND FIRMLY AGAINST ALTERING THE
VIETNAM MEMORIAL.

SINCERELY,

MARSHAL
SARASOTA, FLA

✓

November 15, 1967

Dear Mr. Brown,

I want to make it very clear to you how strongly I disagree with your rejection of the project honoring the Viet Nam nurse. My brother served in Viet Nam, was injured twice, the second time, fatally. The dedication of these nurses was expressed many times in his letters home, particularly during recovery from his first injuries.

I must say that your attitude toward this project is in keeping with the general attitude toward Viet Nam. Individuals have had to fight desperately for recognition; recognition that should have been bestowed upon them willingly and with pride.

I hope you will reconsider and support the project. Nurses have played a vital role during past conflicts, and no doubt will continue to do^{so} in future conflicts. I guess the choice as to whether or not appreciation is shown to these dedicated professionals is up to you. I certainly hope you make the correct choice.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Deborah