Statement Regarding Legislative Initiative
On Memorial Design
November 4, 1982

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund opposes any legislative initiative to preempt or overrule the approval process of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial design by the Federal agencies and commissions mandated by Public Law 96-297 to grant such approvals. The American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars join VVMF in opposing political moves to dictate design matters. The National Salute to Vietnam Veterans and the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial herald an era of the recognition and acceptance that Vietnam veterans have long deserved, along with renewed national unity and patriotism. The legislative initiative is an attempt by a small but vocal group to exploit the positive benefits of these historic events for their own narrow purposes.

The Commission of Fine Arts and National Capital Planning Commission have been created by Congress to consider questions of design, planning, aesthetics, and appropriateness. These two, together with the Department of the Interior, are committed to completing a memorial that is both a magnificent tribute to all who served in Vietnam as well as a fitting addition to the sacred ground of the National Mall. Congress has never before interfered with the resolution of design matters in the hands of these agencies. To make the process subject to politics sets an unacceptable precedent.