FOR RELEASE:
IMMEDIATELY
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VFW CONTINUES EFFORTS TO ERECT
A KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- In keeping with a resolution adopted at its 85th National Convention the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States today asked Congress to join with the 2 million-member VFW and support construction of a National Korean War Memorial dedicated to the 5.7 million Americans who served in our Armed Forces during the Korean War and the 55,000 Americans who died as a result of the war.

In a letter to Senator Rudy Boschwitz of Minnesota Billy Ray Cameron, of Sanford, N.C., asked for new legislation in support of the memorial to replace legislation that Boschwitz introduced during the last Congress. Cameron has also written to Members of the House Representatives asking them to support legislation in favor of a memorial which has already been introduced in the 99th Congress by Representatives G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery of Mississippi and John Paul Hammerschmidt of Arkansas.
According to Cameron, the VFW is urging that the memorial be financed and built by the Federal Government because it was the government that sent our Armed Forces to Korea to fight the war. He also said that when donations are solicited by special committees and fund raising firms too much of the money raised is used for administrative costs and salaries. According to Cameron, "when you consider the tax break that the Government gives away to those who make private contributions it would probably save the government money to pay for and build the memorial itself."

This year the American Battle Monuments Commission asked the Office of Management and Budget to include $250,000 in design costs for the memorial as part of the ABMC FY86 Budget. But the OMB Director, David Stockman, turned it down citing the current high budget deficit. The monument is expected to cost $2.5 million.

Cameron realizes that some VFW Posts and members may want to make personal contributions for the construction of the memorial. He is advising them to send their donations directly to the American Battle Monuments Commission where they will be held in trust until a memorial is built. In the event a memorial is not built the donations will be returned to the donors. Checks or money orders made payable to the American Battle Monuments Commission (Korean War Memorial) can be mailed to:

Director of Operations and Finance
American Battle Monuments Commission
Washington, D. C. 20314