STATEMENT OF

JOHN S. LOREC

AMVETS National Commander

Before The

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, TASK FORCE ON
LIBRARIES AND MEMORIALS

U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

On

H.R. 2205, A Bill to Authorize The Establishment of A Memorial
On Federal Land In The District Of Columbia Or Its Environs,
To Honor Members Of The United States Armed Forced Who Served
In The Korean War.

1:00 p.m., 10 July 1985, Room 334, CHOB
Madam Chairwoman, on behalf of the more than 200,000 members of AMVETS, I am most appreciative of the opportunity to enthusiastically endorse enactment of H.R. 2205, introduced by a friend of veterans of long standing, Congressman James Florio of New Jersey, which, I am proud to claim as my home state.

H.R. 2205 authorizes the Federal Government to erect and maintain a memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Korean War, particularly those who were killed in action, listed as missing in action or held as prisoners of war. As we understand, the final form of the bill will give this responsibility to the American Battle Monuments Commission.

As we approach the 32nd anniversary of the Armistice which terminated the fighting in the Korean War, those more than 5 million of us living Americans who served during that first major challenge to the ramparts of freedom after World War II are deeply honored by this proposed legislation, as well as the diligent efforts of Senators Denton of Alabama, Armstrong of Colorado and Congressman Stan Parris of Virginia who are sponsoring or supporting similar legislation in the Congress.

AMVETS has been in the forefront of veterans organizations in working for a Korean War Memorial since our 40th National Con-
vention. One of our Past National Commanders of AMVETS, Mr. Robert L. Wilbraham of Ohio is a board member of a group of Korean veterans who are working toward the same goal by raising private funds. In this connection, we concur with the suggested modification of H.R. 2205, which would authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to receive private donations for the project.

The justly deserved tribute to our Vietnam veterans, which is now the most attended monument in our Nation's Capitol, reminds us more than ever of the heroic sacrifices of the silent veterans of the "forgotten war."

AMVETS enthusiastically subscribes to the statement of the Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Congress G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery of Mississippi, that, "This type of recognition is long overdue."