Thank you for the privilege of appearing before this distinguished Task Force to present the views of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

My name is Donald H. Schwab and it is my privilege to serve the more than two million men and women of the Veterans of Foreign Wars as their National Legislative Director.

The letter of invitation from you, Madam Chairwoman, calls up for hearing H.R. 2205 introduced by the Honorable James J. Florio for himself, the Honorable G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery, Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and the Honorable John Paul Hammerschmidt, Ranking Minority Member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. The bill, which now enjoys a large number of bipartisan cosponsors, was introduced on April 24, 1985, and is identified as the "Korean War Memorial Act." Under the provisions thereof, the Secretary of the Interior is required to erect and maintain a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia or its...
environ to honor those who served in our Armed Forces during the Korean war, particularly those killed in action, listed as missing in action, or held prisoners of war. In addition, H.R. 2205 authorizes the appropriation of such funds as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the Act.

The instant legislation fulfills the thrust of our current VFW Resolution No. 308 entitled "A Korean War Memorial," a copy of which is appended to my testimony.

It is my understanding, Madam Chairwoman, that the Task Force intends to amend H.R. 2205 by substituting the American Battle Monuments Commission for the Secretary of the Interior as the action agency. This, of course, would be in conformity with current law since 36 USC 123 stipulates:

"The Commission shall prepare plans and estimates for the erection of suitable memorials to commemorate the services of the American Armed Forces, and shall erect and maintain memorials in the United States and at such places outside the United States where the American Armed Forces have served since April 6, 1917, or shall hereafter serve, as the Commission shall determine."

In accordance with the foregoing, Madam Chairwoman, the American Battle Monuments Commission has sought the necessary appropriation for a quarter of a century having been rebuffed in turn by both the old Bureau of the Budget and the President's Office of Management and Budget. The Commission is authorized by 36 USC 128 to also receive funds for this purpose from any State, municipal or private source; and if adequately publicized and vigorously pursued, donations could reduce the Federal expenditures and bathe the monument in an aura of true national pride and remembrance.

I would be remissed, indeed, if I failed to mention that also pending before this Task Force is H.R. 2588 introduced by the Honorable Stanford E. Parris on May 22, 1985. Similar to H.R. 2205, Mr. Parris' bill also enjoys a large number of cosponsors.
As is a matter of record, of the 5.7 million who served in our Armed Forces during the Korean war, 5.2 million are still living—103,000 were wounded of whom 33,000 died and an additional 21,400 expired of non-battle causes—and some 5,000 were captured or listed as missing in action.

In view of the above statistics, it is inconceivable, indeed, that while for interment in Arlington National Cemetery we as a Nation go to the greatest extremes to locate and properly honor an unknown of each war, yet, we as a Nation treat as non-persons, unmemorialized and, yes, thus unhonored, those known valiant men and women who made the supreme sacrifice; those who were wounded; those who were prisoners of war; those veterans who have returned to their civilian endeavors and those so disabled that they will remain hospitalized the remainder of their lives.

Advancing and seeing through to fruition the necessary legislation, even though belated, would bring lasting, tangible tribute to those who fought in such places as Yongdungp'o, Taejon-ni, Seoul, Pork Chop Hill, and Pyong-Yang, among others.

In conclusion, permit me to thank the Chairwoman and members of the Task Force for holding this hearing. On behalf of our many members who are Korean veterans and all Korean veterans, the VFW urges early advancement of appropriate legislation.

Thank you.
Resolution No. 308

A NATIONAL KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

WHEREAS, 5.7 million American citizens served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the Korean War, 54,236 gave their lives, 103,248 were wounded, and 5,178 were captured or were missing in action; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a National Memorial to recognize the valor of those persons will assure that their dedication and sacrifice will be honored; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States want the brave deeds of those men and women recognized; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States desire to pay special tribute to those men and women who gave so much to their country during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States wish to express their desire by the establishment of a lasting memorial to those whose courage and sacrifice should be remembered; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 85th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support House Joint Resolution No. 236 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 97 which "Authorizes the erection of a memorial on public grounds in the District of Columbia, or its environs, in honor and commemoration of members of the Armed Forces of the United States and the Allied Forces who served in the Korean War;" the passage of which would result in the construction of a National Korean War Memorial.