Korean War Memorial Launched
Legislation Moving Quickly in Congress

The almost six million Americans who served in Korea may eventually find a memorial to their service erected in the nation's capital if bills before both the House and Senate are passed.

Leading the initiative is Rep. James Florio (D-NJ) whose legislation authorizing a Korean Memorial was introduced last month and already has over fifty sponsors in the House. To avoid the controversy surrounding the Vietnam Veterans Memorial the Florio bill would authorize construction by the Department of Interior. Hearings on this bill have already been requested according to an aide.

U.S. Senator Bill Armstrong (R-CO) has put into legislative hopper a similar bill authorizing a Korean Memorial to be built by the American Battle Memorials Commission and then maintenance turned over to the Interior Department's Park Service.

Of the six million Americans serving in Korea, 100,000 were wounded, 5,000 were either captured or missing in action and 54,000 gave their lives.

A companion to the Armstrong legislation has been introduced in the House by Sen. Stan Parris (R-VA). While Florio's initiative would have the memorial financed entirely by the Federal Government the Armstrong-Parris bill leaves open the possibility of some private funding for construction of this monument.

Cost of construction is estimated by the American Battle Monuments Commission at roughly $3 million. According to a Parris aide interested groups would like to establish a timetable which has the monument finished in time for the opening of the 1988 Olympic Games in Korea.

Memorial to Women Vets

Over fifty Senators have joined to co-sponsor legislation to establish a memorial in honor of all women who have served in the United States' Armed Forces.

The bill calls for private funding for the design and construction of this memorial in order to keep the Federal government's costs at a minimum. Sponsors note that women who have served in positions such as parachute riggers, communications specialists and intelligence-staff members have been instrumental in keeping America's military strong and respected worldwide.