On October 28, 1986, thirty-three years after the end of the Korean War, Public Law 99-572 was enacted authorizing erection of a memorial in the Washington, D.C. area by the American Battle Monuments Commission honoring the members of the U.S. Armed Forces who served during that war. It also provided for appointment of a Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board consisting of twelve Korean War Veterans to assist the Commission in this long overdue endeavor. The Board's functions are to recommend a site and design, subject to the Commission's approval, to promote the memorial and encourage private contributions toward its construction.

The memorial, which will be located in Ash Woods on the Mall in our Nation's Capital, will pay tribute to more than 5.7 million Americans who served in the Armed Forces during the three year period of the Korean War from June 1950 to August 1953. The site is a seven and one-half acre wooded area in front of the Lincoln Memorial and south of the Reflecting Pool from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Although of relatively short duration, the Korean War was one of the hardest fought wars in our Nation's history. During it, 33,600 Americans were Killed in Action and an additional 21,400 died of non-battle causes; 8,200 of those listed as Killed in Action were classified as Missing in Action and presumed dead, among whom are 389 unaccounted for POW's. In addition to those who were killed in action, more than 103,000 Americans were wounded.

The law establishes this $6,000,000.00 project requires the memorial to be erected with private contributions except for $1,000,000.00 which it authorizes to be appropriated for design, site preparation, associated administrative costs and partial construction. As a consequence, it will be necessary to raise at least $5 million from private individuals, corporations,
FACT SHEET
National Korean War Memorial
to be Erected in Washington, D.C.

On October 28, 1986, President Reagan signed Public Law 99-572 into law authorizing the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to erect a memorial in the Washington, D.C. area honoring members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in Korea during the Korean War. A copy is enclosed. The legislation requires the memorial to be funded through private contributions except for $1,000,000.00 which it authorizes to be appropriated. Estimated cost of the memorial is $6,000,000.00. Should contributions exceed those needed for construction, they will be used to reimburse the federal government for the funds that it appropriates, in accordance with P.L. 99-572.

Additionally, the legislation required the President to appoint a twelve member advisory board of Korean War veterans to make recommendations concerning the siting of the memorial and select its design, subject to the approval of this Commission, and to promote the memorial and to encourage contribution of private funds for its construction and maintenance. On July 20, 1987, the White House announced the names of the members of the board. A listing is attached. General Richard G. Stilwell, USA (Ret), was elected Chairman of the Board by its members. Meetings of the Board have been held in Washington, D.C. on September 23, 1987, November 24, 1987, January 28, 1988, March 4, 1988, May 3, 1988, June 30, 1988, July 28, 1988 and September 8, 1988. The next meeting will be in November, 1988. A memorandum of understanding between ABMC and the Board delineates the responsibilities of each with respect to the memorial. The Board's office is located in Room 5024, Department of the Interior, 1800 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240; Telephone No. (202) 343-2561.

Public Law 99-652, a separate piece of legislation enacted about the same time as P.L. 99-572, establishes standards for placement of commemorative works on federal land in the Washington, D.C. environ. It divides available open space into two areas. Area I generally encompasses the Mall between the Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial and the land between the Jefferson Memorial and the White House. Area II consists of scattered plots of land throughout the city and some on the periphery of Washington, D.C. such as Hains Point, the land in the vicinity of the Marine Corps Monument and Rosslyn. Unfortunately, military memorials commemorating a war or similar major military conflict are relegated to Area II by P.L. 99-652. There is, however, provision in the law for changing the siting from Area II to Area I, provided the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of General Services, as appropriate, in consultation with the National Capital Memorial Commission, considers the subject of the commemorative work to be of preeminent and lasting significance to the Nation. The Secretary or the Administrator may then petition the Congress to enact legislation placing the commemorative work in Area I. Placement in Area I is disapproved if the Congress does not enact the necessary legislation within 150 days of being petitioned. The Secretary of the Interior so petitioned the Congress on November 10, 1987; legislation authorizing placement of the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the Mall was enacted in March 1988.
An engineering suitability survey of four sites on the Mall was made at the direction of ABMC. After consultation with the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board, these four sites, in order of preference, were presented to the National Capital Memorial Commission of the Department of the Interior on May 26, 1988 with a request that one of the sites in order of preference be made available to this Commission for the Korean War Memorial. By September 16, 1988, a site on the Mall called Ash Woods had been approved by the Department of the Interior, the National Capital Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts and this Commission, clearing the way for work on the design to commence. Ash Woods is a seven and one-half acre wooded area in a superb location on the Mall near the Lincoln Memorial across the Reflecting Pool from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It is bordered on the north by the Reflecting Pool and athletic fields and on the south by Independence Avenue. The National Park Service stables, well screened by foliage, border it to the east and Daniel French Drive to the west. The area is directly and easily accessible from the Lincoln Memorial.

The news media was informed on September 16, 1988 that a single stage open design competition administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, under this Commission's supervision, will be conducted to obtain a design for the memorial. The competition is being publicized in the Commerce Business Daily, copies of which are available in most public libraries and the libraries of engineering schools and universities throughout the country, U.S.A. Today and other publications. The response has been good to date. Those interested in entering the design competition may obtain the necessary information and forms by writing to: Korean War Veterans Memorial Design Competition, P.O. Box 17045, Baltimore, MD 21203-7045. All U.S. citizens, 18 years of age and older are eligible to compete.

Of the estimated $6,000,000.00 cost of the Korean War Memorial, $500,000.00 is for design, site preparation and associated administrative costs; $500,000.00 is for a maintenance fund to be administered by the Department of Interior and the remaining $5,000,000.00 is for construction. Because of escalating costs since enactment of P.L. 99-572 in 1986, it is possible that construction costs could be as much as $6,000,000.00. Most, if not all, of these costs will have to be defrayed by private contributions. As this Commission is a federal agency charged by law with erecting the Korean War Veterans Memorial utilizing funds obtained primarily through private contributions, all donations that it receives to the Memorial Fund are fully tax deductible for the donor under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. To date, $2,492,200 have been received for the erection of the memorial. They include $1.2 million from Hyundai Motor America, $382,000.00 from the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its auxiliary, $500,000.00 from the Disabled American Veterans, and $150,000.00 from the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Many more contributions will be necessary if we are to reach our goal of $6,000,000.00. It is our understanding that the American Legion is considering making a significant contribution to the memorial.

All funds received are placed in a special Trust Account with the U.S. Treasury and will be utilized solely for the purpose intended. If for any reason this Commission does not erect the memorial, the contributions will be returned upon request. Contributions for the memorial may be sent to the:
Checks should be made out to the Korean War Memorial Fund/ABMC.

Unlike other memorial fund-raising efforts where 40 - 90% of the funds collected are used to defray solicitation costs, the funds received for the Korean War Memorial will be used almost in their entirety for design, erection and maintenance of the memorial. Although a small portion will be used to defray the administrative costs of the Board, such expenditures should be offset in their entirety by the interest received on the contributions that have been invested in government notes. None will be used to pay commercial fund-raising organizations.

Regarding contributions, the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team Association (Rakkasans) has initiated a fund-raising drive among its members to obtain funds for the Korean War Memorial. Each member has been asked to solicit contributions from among his or her fellow citizens for the memorial. Their fund-raising efforts so far have raised over $37,000.00. A similar campaign has been initiated by Mr. Tony Zdanavage of Pennsylvania through a program entitled the Korean War Awareness Project and by the Korean War Veterans of Massachusetts. The Korean War Memorial Committee of the V.F.W.'s 7th District is also mounting a strong campaign to obtain funds from the private sector for the memorial. Letters of solicitation have been sent to each division that fought in Korea, the 100 largest corporations in the Washington, D.C. area, the Labor Union headquarters in the United States, the Fortune 1,000, and those organizations that are veteran oriented. So far, the response from Corporate America has not been strong. This Commission and its Advisory Board recently formed an Ad Hoc Fund Raising Committee. The primary emphasis of the Ad Hoc Committee will be toward Corporate donations. Additionally, the need for funds has been published in newspapers and periodicals across the country.

A Korean War Veterans Memorial in our Nation's capital honoring members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in Korea during the war, especially those who were killed in action, are still Missing in Action or were held as prisoners of war is long overdue. It was always this Commission's intent to erect the memorial with appropriated funds. Unfortunately, that is just not to be. Nevertheless, with the help of those interested in the memorial, we are confident that we will be successful in our fund-raising efforts. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please call the undersigned at (202) 272-0536.

Until an approved design is available and at least $5,000,000.00 is on hand for construction, a completion date for the memorial cannot be forecast with any accuracy. We would like it to be completed by the 40th anniversary of the commencement of that war, June 21, 1990, but at the
present rate of contribution, it is unlikely. Thank you for your interest. The enclosed general information pamphlet will tell you something about this Commission.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

WILLIAM E. RYAN, JR.
Colonel, AD
Director of Operations
and Finance

Encls
Public Law 99-572  
99th Congress  
An Act  

Oct. 28, 1986  
[H.R. 2205]  

To authorize the erection of a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Korean war.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

AUTHORIZATION OF MEMORIAL  

SECTION 1. The American Battle Monuments Commission is authorized to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia and 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, are still listed as missing in action, or were held as prisoners of war. Such memorial shall be established in accordance with the provisions of H.R. 4378, as approved by the House of Representatives on September 29, 1986.

ESTABLISHMENT OF KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL ADVISORY BOARD  

SECTION 2. (a) There is hereby established a Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board which shall consist of twelve veterans who served in the Korean war. The members of the Board shall be appointed by the President within one hundred and twenty calendar days of enactment of this Act.

(b) The Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board shall be responsible for:

(1) recommending the site and selecting the design for the memorial, subject to the approval of the American Battle Monuments Commission and in accordance with section 7(a) of H.R. 4378, as approved by the House of Representatives on September 29, 1986; and

(2) promoting the establishment of the memorial and encouraging the donation of private funds for the construction and maintenance of the memorial.

FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION AND PRIVATE FUNDING  

SECTION 3. (a) The American Battle Monuments Commission shall establish the memorial with private funds except as provided in subsection (b) of this section. For the purpose of carrying out this Act, the American Battle Monuments Commission is authorized to solicit and accept private contributions. The Commission is directed to establish an account into which these private funds shall be deposited and to maintain documentation of such contributions.

(b) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated:

(1) $500,000 for site preparation, design, planning, and associated administrative costs for the establishment of the memorial; and
(2) $500,000 for construction of the memorial, to be available only after a construction permit has been issued for the memorial.

(c) Private funds donated in excess of the cost of construction and maintenance of the memorial shall be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts to reimburse the United States for funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

EDWARD R. BORCHERDT, JR., CALIFORNIA
COLONEL FRED V. CHERRY, USAF (RET), MARYLAND
JOHN B. CURCIO, PENNSYLVANIA
GENERAL RAYMOND G. DAVIS, USMC (RET), GEORGIA
THOMAS G. DEHNE, KENTUCKY
COLONEL CONRAD K. HAUSMAN, USA (RET), VIRGINIA
COLONEL ROSEMARY T. MCCARTHY, USA (RET) (ANC),
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JAMES D. MCKEVITT, VIRGINIA
CARLOS RODRIGUEZ, NEW YORK
WILLIAM F. MCSWENY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
GENERAL RICHARD G. STILWELL, USA (RET), VIRGINIA
COLONEL WILLIAM E. WEBER, USA (RET), MARYLAND

COLONEL JOHN KENNEY, USA (RET), DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Concept

The Korean War Veterans National Memorial has two interrelated purposes which constitute primary considerations for its design and siting. The first - and fundamental - purpose is to express the enduring gratitude of the American people for all who took part in that conflict under our flag, those who survived no less than those who gave their lives. The second - and of equal importance - is to project, in most positive fashion, the spirit of service, the willingness to sacrifice and the dedication to the cause of freedom that characterized all participants. As these patriotic virtues have been common to those who served their country at other times of national crisis - and must not be lacking in the instance of future emergencies - the Memorial must radiate a message that is at once inspirational in content and timeless in meaning. Both purposes dictate that the Memorial be unique in concept, designed for public use, located on a prominent prospect and present a renewable living aspect of hope, honor and service.