Korean War Veterans Memorial
in the Nation's Capital

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE BOB HANSEN 202-208-3561
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KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL APPROVED BY
NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Washington, DC --- In its regular monthly meeting, March 5th, the National Capital Planning Commission approved the refined design concept for the Korean War Veterans Memorial in the Nation's Capital. It further requested two minor changes, that the trees be extended eastward into the triangular field to preserve the effect of troops emerging from the woods, and that the granite stripes be shortened on the southern walkway as well as on the northern entrance walkway.

General Raymond Davis, USMC, Ret., Advisory Board Chairman, and a Medal of Honor recipient from the Korean War declares this "a major step forward, one that will assure an early ground breaking ceremony for this long-overdue Memorial to the Korean War veterans."

Ground breaking ceremonies are now tentatively scheduled for Flag Day, June 14, 1992 at the site, Ash Woods, near the Lincoln Memorial and across the Reflecting Pool from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. All veterans will be invited to attend. President Bush, himself a gallant warrior and decorated veteran, will be invited to turn the first spade of earth.

It will be a day for all to remember -- a day for the country to recognize with gratitude all who took part in the war under our flag, those who survived, no less than those who gave their lives. This Memorial embodies the spirit of service, the willingness to sacrifice and the dedication to the cause of freedom that characterized all participants. President Bush has said "Once this memorial, this fantastic memorial, is constructed, no American will ever forget the test of freedom our brave sons and daughters faced as they sought to stop aggression."

This Memorial has always had three features, and they remain: 1) a column of troops representing those who fought the war on foot, 2) a wall depicting the array of other combat and combat support troops who participated in the war, and 3) an open chapel area for family, friends, and others to pay tribute to those who were KIA/MIA/POW. The 16 troops in the open triangular field will convey the emotions generated by exposure to danger & the ethnic diversity of the era. The 100's of images on the wall is where a visitor will always find a reminder of "a friend," or someone who looks like "a friend." This wall of faces together with the faces of the troopers will keep this Memorial alive for all time to come. The still reflecting pool/open chapel area inscribed with "In memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice" will give the visitor cause to reflect on the true cost of freedom.

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