Mr. David A. Stockman  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Stockman:

The enclosed budget request for fiscal 1986 provides $11,445,000 for the operation and maintenance of 24 cemetery memorials and 14 separate monuments in ten foreign countries and 4 memorials here in the United States. Interred in these shrines or commemorated at them individually by name are 238,000 American War Dead of Vietnam, Korea, World War II, World War I and the Mexican War, as well as several thousand Americans and dependents interred in the Corozal American Cemetery in the Republic of Panama. The Normandy American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach, where President Reagan and seven other Heads of State celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the World War II D-Day landings in Europe, is one of those shrines.

Included in the $11,445,000 are $250,000 for the design of a memorial in the Washington, DC area to provide long overdue recognition of the sacrifices and achievements of American Armed Forces in the Korean War. The total estimated cost of the memorial is $2,500,000. Thirty-two years have elapsed since the end of the Korean War. During its three-year period, 5,720,000 Americans served in the military forces. Of them, 103,000 were wounded in Korea; 33,600 died of their wounds; and an additional 21,400 died world-wide from non-battle causes.

The replacement cost of the Commission's cemeteries, monuments and memorials is approximately $239,000,000. This request provides $3,048,000 specifically for the care and maintenance of these shrines (O.C. 22, 25, 26, 31 and 32), and represents an annual investment of about 1.3% of replacement costs. It is a modest sum to provide adequate maintenance and care of monumental structures averaging over 45 years in age.
The mean inflation rate this fiscal year in the countries where our installations are located has been about 10% annually, while the annual increase in our budget has been on the order of 1%. Fortunately, a stronger dollar overseas during the past 48 months has enabled us not only to maintain our facilities at established standards, but also to reduce somewhat the large backlog of maintenance and repair projects that has built up over the years. If the dollar overseas continues to remain strong, this request should enable us to provide adequate maintenance of our facilities during the budget year.

A 4% general schedule and military pay increase effective 1 October 1984 and anticipated wage board pay increases have been incorporated in the update of our fiscal 1985 requirements at a cost of $340,000. We plan to absorb these increases.

Your cooperation and assistance are requested in maintaining the Commission's shrines to our War Dead at a standard worthy of those they honor.

Sincerely,

A. F. Adams
Major General, USA
Secretary

Enclosure
Objective:

To give long overdue recognition to the sacrifices and achievements of American Armed Forces in The Korean War by the erection of a suitable memorial in the Washington, DC area.

Supporting information:

During the three-year period of the Korean War (1950-1953), 5,720,000 Americans served our country in the military forces. Of that number, 103,000 were wounded in Korea and of these, 33,600 died of their wounds, and an additional 21,400 died worldwide of non-battle causes. The total number of service deaths during this period was 55,000.

Thirty-two years have elapsed since General Mark W. Clark signed the Armistice on behalf of the United Nations ending the Korean War. The ensuing years have taken a heavy toll of the surviving American veterans of that war.

While the Vietnam War was still in progress, funds were requested of the Bureau of the Budget to construct a Korean War Memorial. This Commission was informed at that time that it should wait until the Vietnam War was over to request such funds because all available resources were needed to prosecute the war. It has been over a decade since the Vietnam War was concluded. A Korean War Memorial should be erected soon while a large number of Korean War veterans are still alive to appreciate their country's recognition of their war service.

The United States government has a moral responsibility to honor the millions of Americans who answered its call to serve, and in some cases die, in defense of the People of South Korea who were being overrun by their communist brethren to the North.

The cost of such a memorial is minuscule compared to the estimated $60,000,000,000 (in 1981 dollars) expended in lives and treasure to prosecute the Korean War.