Dear Colleague:

Thirty five years ago, in a remote land 8000 miles from the United States, 54,246 Americans died. In that bleak, cold outpost, over one million Americans served in defense of freedom, fighting a war in which the ethical standards of Western civilization never applied. The brutality, courage and valor which became everyday circumstances of life produced the awarding of the highest military honor which this country can offer -- the Congressional Medal of Honor -- no less than 131 times. That country was Korea, the years were 1950-1953, and it is to the American serviceman, fighting that devastating war, that the credit belongs.

We have forgotten those men and women. The million Americans who were sent on that long trip west and the many thousands who never came back have been overlooked and underplayed. It is a tragedy that the thousands of survivors of Korea's American war dead and the hundreds of thousands of U.S. military survivors feel that they are the "forgotten veterans" of America's past.

It is time to do something. Chairman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt, Ranking Minority Member, have joined with me to introduce H.R. 2205, "The Korean War Memorial Act." This unusual display of bipartisan leadership is indicative of the importance attached to this initiative by millions of American veterans from all wars and all eras. There can be no denial of the propriety of the memorial -- from any quarter.

The Korean War Memorial would be erected by the Secretary of the Interior on Federal land in the District of Columbia or its environs. Site selection would be subject to the approval of the National Commission on Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission.

I urge you to join with us and with hundreds of thousands of veterans nationwide in this effort. I suspect that you will find wide support for this measure among the veteran communities of your district. We have, here, an opportunity to provide a real leadership role for these often frustrated and perhaps embittered veterans. It is an opportunity which won't soon be forgotten.

If you wish to cosponsor H.R. 2205, or desire additional information, please contact me or Frank Fortunato in my office on extension 5-6501.

Sincerely,

JAMES J. FLORIO
Member of Congress
SPONSOR............ Florio
DATE INTRODUCED... April 24, 1985
HOUSE COMMITTEE... House Administration
OFFICIAL TITLE.... A bill to erect a memorial on Federal land in the
District of Columbia or its environs to honor
members of the Armed Forces of the United States
who served in the Korean war.

CO-SPONSORS..... 12 CURRENT COSPONSORS —

Apr 24, 85 Referred to House Committee on House Administration.
CO-SPONSORS..... 12 CURRENT COSPONSORS —
AS INTRODUCED... Montgomery, Hammerschmidt.
May 2, 85 Stark, Hayes, Rahall, Berman, Towns, Mrazek,
Molinari, Billey, Solomon, Bateman.