STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE LANE EVANS
CHAIRMAN, VIETNAM-ERA VETERANS IN CONGRESS
HEARING OF THE HOUSE TASK FORCE ON LIBRARIES AND MEMORIALS
JULY 10, 1985

Thank you, Madame Chairwoman. I'd first like to express my gratitude to you for agreeing to hold this important hearing on a matter of importance to all veterans. As you well know, appropriate recognition for America's Korean War veterans is long overdue, and it is with this in mind that I offer my full support for the proposal before the Task Force today. Secondly, I'd like to congratulate the gentlemen from New Jersey and Virginia for their efforts to dedicate a memorial honoring those veterans who served in the Korean theater.

As a former Marine and Chair of the Vietnam-era Veterans in Congress, I have been deeply involved in legislative and regulatory efforts designed to ensure that our Vietnam veterans receive the recognition and benefits they deserve. From last year's dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Mall, to the enactment of legislation extending the life of the "Vet Center" program, to the placement of a Vietnam serviceman in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery, these veterans are finally being recognized as patriotic Americans who served their county as bravely as did the veterans of earlier wars.
Unfortunately, in this rush of activity centering on those who served in Southeast Asia, the Korean War, which claimed an equal number of lives in a much shorter period of time, has taken an unjustified back seat in the minds of the public. Despite the fact that this war was one of the bloodiest and most highly-charged in modern history, its political tone and close proximity to World War II caused most Americans to quickly put the war out of their minds. In doing so, Korean War veterans were, for the most part, denied the kind of "hero's welcome" that their predecessors in the two World Wars had received. Moreover, a monument to the achievements of these patriotic veterans was never erected.

Vietnam veterans, like all veterans, remember the comraderie and trust which became an integral part of their lives while in the service. Harkening back to this vital link with their wartime brethren, the time has come for all veterans to unite in solidarity and support for a Korean War Memorial in the Nation's Capitol. These patriotic veterans are the only veterans to have not been so honored. To deny such a proposal would be a travesty and a disservice to the more than 5 million veterans who served this nation in Korea. I, therefore, urge the Task Force and all Members to approve this long-overdue proposal.