Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
TASK FORCE ON LIBRARIES AND MEMORIALS
103 HOUSE ANNEX No. 1
(202) 226-7641
Washington, DC 20515

TASK FORCE ON LIBRARIES AND MEMORIALS
Hearing on H.R. 2205
Wednesday, July 10, 1985
Room 334 Cannon House Office Building
1:00 P.M.

H.R. 2205, a bill to establish a memorial on Federal land, in the District of Columbia or its environs, to honor the members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Korean War.

AGENDA
1. Opening Statement of Chairwoman Mary Rose Dakar
2. Testimony of Witnesses

WITNESS LIST
1. Honorable James Florio
2. Honorable G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery
3. Honorable John Paul Hammerschmidt
4. Senator John Glenn
5. Honorable Bob Edgar
6. Honorable Stan Parris
7. Honorable Lane Evans
   Director of Operations and Finance
   American Battle Monuments Commission
9. PANEL (6)

Commander John S. Loree
National Commander
American Veterans of WW II, Korea and Vietnam (AMVETS)

Accompanied by:
National Legislative Director, AMVETS

Mr. Donald H. Schwab
Director, National Legislative Service
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Mr. Thomas G. Dehne
Assistant National Adjutant and Director of Administration
Disabled American Veterans

Mr. Don Mansfield
Administrative Assistant to Congressman John F. Seiberling
U.S. Air Force Command Pilot (Retired), Korean War Veteran
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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 1985

Mr. FLORIO (for himself, Mr. MONTGOMERY, and Mr. HAMMERSCHMIDT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

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.

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

2. SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

3. This Act may be cited as the "Korean War Memorial Act".

4. SEC. 2. ERECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF MEMORIAL.

5. The Secretary of the Interior shall erect and maintain 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, particularly
those who were killed in action, listed as missing in action, or
held as prisoners of war.

SEC. 3. APPROVAL OF SITE SELECTION, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION PLANS.

Selection of a site for, design of, and plans for the construction of, such memorial shall be subject to the approval of the National Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated for any fiscal year beginning on or after October 1, 1985, such funds as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.
To authorize the erection of 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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 1985

Mr. PARRIS introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To authorize the erection of 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.

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

2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

3 This Act may be cited as the "Korean War Veterans Memorial Act of 1985".

4 SEC. 2. ERECTION OF MEMORIAL.

5 The American Battle Monuments Commission is authorized to provide for the erection of a memorial on Federal land
1 in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor members
2 of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the
3 Korean war, particularly those who were killed in action,
4 listed as missing in action, or were held as prisoners of war.
5 SEC. 3. MAINTENANCE OF MEMORIAL.
6 Upon completion of the memorial, it shall be turned
7 over from the American Battle Monuments Commission to
8 the Department of the Interior. Maintenance of said memori-
9 al shall then be the sole responsibility of the Department of
10 the Interior.
11 SEC. 4. APPROVAL OF SITE SELECTION, DESIGN, AND CON-
12 STRUCTION PLANS.
13 Selection of a site for, design of, and plans for the con-
14 struction of such memorial shall be subject to the approval of
15 the National Commission of Fine Arts and the National Cap-
16 ital Planning Commission.
17 SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
18 There are hereby authorized to be appropriated for any
19 fiscal year beginning on or after October 1, 1985, such funds
20 as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.
To authorize the erection of 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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24 (Legislative day, April 15), 1985

Mr. ARMSTRONG introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the erection of 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.

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

2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

3 This Act may be cited as the "Korean War Veterans Memorial Act of 1985".

4 SEC. 2. ERECTION OF MEMORIAL.

5 The American Battle Monuments Commission is authorized to provide for the erection of 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, particularly those who were killed in action, listed as missing in action, or were held as prisoners of war.

SEC. 2. MAINTENANCE OF MEMORIAL.

Upon completion of the memorial, it shall be turned over from the American Battle Monuments Commission to the Department of the Interior. Maintenance of said memorial shall then be the sole responsibility of the Department of the Interior.

SEC. 4. APPROVAL OF SITE SELECTION, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN.

Selection of a site for, design of, and plans for the construction of such memorial shall be subject to the approval of the National Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated for any fiscal year beginning on or after October 1, 1985, such funds as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.
OPENING STATEMENT OF
THE HONORABLE MARY ROSE OAKAR
CHAIR, TASK FORCE ON LIBRARIES AND MEMORIALS

HEARING ON H.R. 2205
7-10-85
I am proud to chair this hearing on H.R. 2205, the Korean War Memorial Act and to be one of its 107 cosponsors. This bill was introduced by my distinguished colleague, Representative James Florio along with the distinguished chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, the honorable G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, and the ranking minority member of that committee the honorable John Paul Hammerschmidt.

This display of bipartisan leadership is indicative of the importance and the enthusiastic support for this bill, both in the House of Representatives and throughout the country. This legislation will authorize the erection of a memorial, on federal land, in the District of Columbia, to the millions of Americans who served in the Korean conflict.

The Korean War lasted officially from 1950-1953. During these three years American soldiers experienced casualties that were catastrophic in proportion to previous conflicts. The United States alone lost 54,246 lives during that period. 103,284 were wounded and 4,675 were captured. The United States Defense Department concluded that more than 6,000 American troops and 5,500 other soldiers had perished after falling into the hands of the enemy. Approximately half of those 11,500 soldiers were the victims of atrocities perpetrated by the North Koreans and the other half died in prisons. The army shows that 1,036 American soldiers had been murdered after their capture.
THIS "INTERNATIONAL POLICE ACTION", AS IT WAS COMMONLY CALLED, WAS A WAR IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD. THIS "WAR" BECAME THE TESTING GROUND FOR THE "MILITARIZATION" OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY. WAR STRATEGY WAS TRANSFERRED FROM THE HANDS OF THE MILITARY TO THE FORMULATORS OF FOREIGN POLICY. RULES APPLIED TO TRADITIONAL WARFARE WERE DISREGARDED IN MOST INSTANCES.

THE KOREAN WAR MARKED A MAJOR TURNING POINT IN POST 1945 AMERICAN MILITARY POLICY. IT PROVIDED THE POLITICAL CONTEXT FOR REARMAMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATO. IT WOULD ALSO DRAW THE UNITED STATES INTO A POLICY THAT WOULD HAVE LONG RANGE CONSEQUENCES IN THE FUTURE, OF ACTIVE MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN ASIA.

ON THE EVE OF THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMISTICE SIGNED ON JULY 27, 1953 AT PANMUNJOM, SOUTH KOREA, THIS MEMORIAL WILL SERVE AS A TIMELY REMINDER OF THE IMPORTANT SACRIFICES MADE BY THESE VETERANS SOME 32 YEARS AGO. THEIR SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTRY WAS NO LESS IMPORTANT THAN THOSE WHO Fought IN WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II, OR THE CONFLICT THAT WAS TO FOLLOW. IT IS THEREFORE APPROPRIATE TO HAVE A KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL TO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVED.

I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM THE DISTINGUISHED WITNESSES.
OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES J. FLORIO

Task Force on Libraries & Memorials
July 10, 1985

I would like to begin by thanking the Chair of the Task Force, Ms. Oakar, for all of the assistance and support which she has given to our efforts. And I do say our efforts as my distinguished colleague from Ohio is herself a cosponsor of H.R. 2205, The Korean War Memorial Act. On behalf of both Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Hammerschmidt, the original cosponsors of the bill, and the over one hundred other Members who have cosponsored the bill since its introduction, I thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Madam Chair, I see from the witness list that the veterans organizations are represented here today as well as they should be. Certainly there are no finer representatives of the over five million Korean era veterans than these groups. To describe the brutality and intensity of a war that lasted only 36 months and yet cost nearly the same number of American lives lost in the ten-year Vietnam conflict is something perhaps better left to those who were there. Suffice it to say that it is my opinion, and that of many others as well, that the sacrifices of these brave young servicemen have gone unnoticed, unrecognized and unknown for far too long.

Since I introduced this bill with Messrs. Montgomery and Hammerschmidt last April I have received numerous letters of support from Korean War veterans. I thank the veterans service organizations for their efforts in getting the word out to their members regarding the bill. I would like to share some excerpts from some of the letters which I have received. Madam Chair, I would like to ask that these letters be included in the record in their entirety.

"It was an honored privilege to be given the command assignment in Korea. I wish to endorse enthusiastically the proposed H.R. 2205, initiated by you and the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, for the erection and maintenance by the Federal Government of a memorial to honor the members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Korean War. I believe this is an honor richly deserved and long overdue."

— Matthew B. Ridgway, General, U.S. Army Retired

"You wholeheartedly have my support for the Korean War Memorial Act. It has always seemed somewhat unjust that there is no memorial dedicated to the memory of those courageous Americans who lost their lives in this war. All of us who fought in Korea remember with sadness that we were caught up in a so-called 'policing action' but those who were fighting there called it a war. The Marines I flew with had a very sarcastic phrase about the Korean War, 'It's not the best war but it's the only one we've got!' If I can be of any other help in showing my support for the
forgotten veterans please let me know."

-- Ed McMahon, The Tonight Show
Johnny Carson Productions

"My years in the U.S. Marine Corps which I spent in Korea were years of sacrifices and pain for many Americans. Too often, I think, we are concerned with those who actually fought in combat and the need to honor their courage and bravery. There was no shortage of heroes in Korea. But we can't forget those at home either. We as a country were fighting in Korea — and we as a country suffered in Korea. By honoring those who fought in Korea we honor this entire country which did in fact preserve freedom in those years. I am confident that any veteran of the Korean War would support this measure, H.R. 2205, The Korean War Memorial Act. Thank you for your efforts to remember the dedication of our people over thirty years ago."

-- Ted Williams

I would like to thank General Ridgway, Ed McMahon and Ted Williams for their letters of support. I am gratified to see that significant interest has been generated about this proposal and I am hopeful that the Task Force will concur with our efforts.

Madam Chair, I would like to draw your attention to language which I would propose to be used to amend H.R. 2205, The Korean War Memorial Act, to make it an even better bill. The language has been forwarded to the Task Force already and I would like to summarize it briefly.

The language would require that the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) construct the memorial. ABMC is staffed by U.S. Army personnel and, in fact, the Veterans Affairs Committee has oversight responsibility for its operation. It has a proven track record and I am sure that Col. Ryan of the Commission, who will testify today, will be able to answer any questions you may have about the ABMC.

The Commission has an existing provision in its federal charter which allows it to accept private, tax-deductible donations for its operations. I have suggested wording which would specifically reinforce that provision and expressly permit donations to the Commission for the purpose of building the memorial. We have asked for federal funds not to exceed $5 million. Any funds collected by the Commission would be used to defray the cost to the government. Monies would actually be returned to the Treasury as donations were made to the project. It is possible that the actual cost to the government would be quite small, if any, as more and more veterans learn of this mechanism.

There are many people here today to whom I am grateful — certainly the guidance which Chairman Montgomery and Mr. Hammerschmidt have offered to me and my staff has been invaluable. Senator Glenn, your presence here today
provides a focus for this proposal. Your exploits and courage are well known to all Americans and I thank you for your support. Mr. Evans and the Vietnam Veterans in Congress provide a link between the men and women who fought in both wars and their help has been a great asset. Mr. Parris has generated considerable public support for his own initiative to honor the Korean War veteran and I am grateful for both his support and his presence here today.

The time is now, Madam Chair, for a Korean War Memorial. We have the support of veterans nationwide and we have the support of well over one hundred Members of Congress. I thank you for your leadership, as demonstrated by holding these hearings, and I ask for your continued support. The veterans of the Korean War and their families thank you for your effort.
Statement of
Honorable G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery
Chairman
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
before the
House Task Force on Libraries and Memorials
July 10, 1985

MADAM CHAIRMAN, AS A VETERAN OF BOTH WORLD WAR TWO AND KOREA, I'D LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO YOU FOR SCHEDULING THIS HEARING ON H.R. 2205. THIS LEGISLATION WOULD GIVE LONG OVERDUE RECOGNITION TO OUR KOREAN WAR VETERANS, BOTH LIVING AND DEAD, THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL MEMORIAL.
I'D ALSO LIKE TO COMMEND MY DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES – JIM FLORIO OF NEW JERSEY WHO, AS AUTHOR OF THIS MEASURE, IS PULLING TOGETHER THE NECESSARY FORCES TO SEE THAT THE JOB GETS DONE – AND THE GENTLEMAN FROM ARKANSAS, JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT, RANKING MINORITY MEMBER OF THE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. VETERANS HAVE NO BETTER FRIEND IN THE CONGRESS NOR ANYONE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR WELL-BEING.

THERE IS ANOTHER GENTLEMAN WHO HAS EARNED THE RESPECT OF THOSE IN THIS ROOM TODAY. CONGRESSMAN STAN PARRIS HAS BEEN AN OUTSPOKEN LEADER IN THE EFFORT TO GET THIS MEMORIAL AUTHORIZED AND FUNDED. HE DESERVES A GREAT DEAL OF CREDIT FOR KEEPING THIS ISSUE ALIVE AND WELL.
IT IS ESPECIALLY FITTING THAT THIS HEARING BE CONDUCTED HERE IN THE ROOM WHERE MOST OF THE LEGISLATION BENEFITING OUR KOREAN CONFLICT VETERANS HAS BEEN DEVELOPED. BUT BENEFITS AREN'T ENOUGH. SURE, WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD AN OBLIGATION TO HELP OUR VETERANS READJUST, TO GIVE THEM OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION, FOR HOUSING, FOR JOBS...TO COMPENSATE THEM FOR DISABILITIES. THAT IS THE VERY LEAST WE CAN DO. WE HAVE MET AND CONTINUE TO MEET THAT RESPONSIBILITY.

WE ALSO HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO THESE VETERANS AND TO THE GENERATIONS THAT WILL FOLLOW US HERE ON EARTH TO LEAVE A TANGIBLE REMINDER OF THE HIGH COST OF THE KOREAN CONFLICT AND A REMINDER OF THE COURAGE OF THOSE WHO SERVED SO HONORABLY.
THE KOREAN CONFLICT AND THE DEEDS OF ITS PARTICIPANTS ARE OFTEN OVERSHADOWED BY THE WORLD WAR THAT HAD NOT LONG BEEN ENDED AND BY VIETNAM, WHICH STILL LIES FRESH ON OUR MINDS.

IN ADDITION, OUR KOREAN CONFLICT VETERANS HAVE BEEN THE SILENT VETERANS, THE ONES WHO SERVED THEN SLIPPED BACK INTO CIVILIAN LIFE PRACTICALLY UNNOTICED.

MADAM CHAIRMAN, ON JULY 27, WE MARK THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE ARMISTICE THAT ENDED THE THREE YEARS OF FIGHTING IN KOREA. THIRTY TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED, YET WE STILL HAVE NO NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO THE 54 THOUSAND AMERICANS WHO WERE KILLED NOR THOSE WHO WERE HELD PRISONERS OF WAR NOR THE 103 THOUSAND WHO WERE WOUNDED.
OF THE SIX MILLION U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO SERVED DURING THE KOREAN CONFLICT, MORE THAN FIVE MILLION ARE STILL LIVING. THAT NUMBER INCLUDES MANY WHO HAD HUNG UP THEIR UNIFORMS ONLY FIVE YEARS EARLIER AT THE END OF A WORLD WAR AND MANY WHO WOULD LATER SERVE DURING THE VIETNAM ERA. THIS MEMORIAL WOULD STAND AS A TRIBUTE TO THEIR HEROISM AND THEIR SACRIFICES AS WELL.
MR. FLORIO, MR. HAMMERSCHMIDT AND I IMMEDIATELY DECIDED TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE BILL WE INTRODUCED AUTHORIZING THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION TO ERECT THE MEMORIAL AND THAT IT BE MAINTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR UPON COMPLETION. IN ADDITION, WE AGREED THAT THE LEGISLATION SHOULD ALLOW KOREAN VETERANS AND OTHERS AS WELL TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MEMORIAL.
SINCE THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS HAS JURISDICTION OVER THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION WE AGREED THAT OUR COMMITTEE COULD CONDUCT WHATSOEVER OVERSIGHT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE SURE THAT THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION COULD PROCEED ON A TIMELY BASIS SHOULD THE LEGISLATION BE ENACTED.
I'M ALSO PLEASED BECAUSE THE COMMISSION CERTAINLY HAS THE EXPERTISE. THE COMMISSION CURRENTLY ADMINISTERS AND MAINTAINS 24 PERMANENT AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY MEMORIALS AND 14 SEPARATE MONUMENTS IN TEN FOREIGN COUNTRIES. IT ALSO MAINTAINS FOUR MEMORIALS IN THE UNITED STATES. IF YOU HAVE EVER SEEN ONE OF THE BEAUTIFUL CEMETERIES OR MEMORIALS MAINTAINED BY THE COMMISSION, THEN YOU KNOW THAT IT DOES AN EXCELLENT JOB.
I HOPE THAT THE TASK FORCE WILL RECOMMEND H. R. 2205 TO THE FULL COMMITTEE AS AMENDED AND I ASK THAT A COPY OF THE AMENDMENT WE ARE PROPOSING BE INSERTED AT THIS POINT IN THE HEARING RECORD.

MADAM CHAIRMAN, AGAIN I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR CONDUCTING THIS HEARING AND FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF H.R. 2205. THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN ON THE BACK BURNER MUCH TOO LONG. IT IS TIME TO TURN UP THE HEAT. IT IS TIME FOR A KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL.

THANK YOU.
MADAM CHAIRWOMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE:

IT IS MY PLEASURE TODAY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TO STRONGLY ENDORSE H.R. 2205. THIS BILL, WHICH I HAVE COSPONSORED WITH CONGRESSMAN JAMES FLORIO OF NEW JERSEY, AND SONNY MONTGOMERY OF MISSISSIPPI, WOULD ESTABLISH A FITTING MEMORIAL TO MEMBERS OF OUR ARMED FORCES WHO SERVED DURING THE KOREA CONFLICT.
MADAM CHAIRWOMAN, H.R. 2205, WITH THE TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED BY ITS COSPONSORS, QUITE PROPERLY CALLS UPON THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION TO CONSTRUCT THIS MEMORIAL. THE COMMISSION IS VERY EXPERIENCED IN THIS TYPE OF ENDEAVOR, AND IT IS LOGICAL FOR IT TO HAVE THIS RESPONSIBILITY.

MADAM CHAIRWOMAN, I CONGRATULATE YOU AND THANK YOU FOR SCHEDULING THIS HEARING. A MEMORIAL TO VETERANS OF THE KOREAN CONFLICT IS LONG OVERDUE.
THE KOREAN WAR WAS LONG AND DIFFICULT. SOMETIMES ITS PURPOSES SEEMED TO BE OBSCURED. BUT THE ONE MILLION AMERICANS WHO SERVED THERE DID SO WITH HONOR AND DISTINCTION. THE MEMORIAL CALLED FOR BY H.R. 2205 WOULD CAUSE OUR NATION TO CONSTANTLY REFLECT UPON THEIR SACRIFICES AND IT WILL REMIND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF THEIR STRONG SERVICE IN THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM.
THE KOREAN WAR ENDED MORE THAN \( \frac{3}{25} \) YEARS AGO. MORE THAN 54,000 AMERICANS DIED THERE AND OVER THIRTY THOUSAND DIED LATER FROM SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES. ANOTHER TWO-HUNDRED AND TWENTY THREE THOUSAND MEN AND WOMEN BECAME DISABLED FROM IT AND TODAY ARE IN RECEIPT OF COMPENSATION FROM THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION. ALTOGETHER, OVER FIVE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND INDIVIDUALS SERVED DURING THE KOREAN WAR ERA. SURELY, THIS GROUP OF AMERICAN VETERANS DESERVES TO BE SINGLED OUT FOR THE HONOR THAT WOULD BE GIVEN THEM BY THE PASSAGE OF H.R. 2205.
MADAM CHAIRWOMAN, AND MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE, THIS IS A BILL THAT I FEEL CERTAIN IS APPLAUDED BY ALL THE CITIZENS OF OUR COUNTRY. I AM INDEED PROUD TO BE ONE OF ITS ORIGINAL COSPONSORS, AND I AM PLEASED BY THE LARGE NUMBER OF OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE HOUSE WHO HAVE JOINED WITH CONGRESSMAN FLORIO, CONGRESSMAN MONTGOMERY AND ME BY PLACING THEIR NAMES ON IT. I URGE THE TASK FORCE TO ACT FAVORABLY UPON H.R. 2205 SO THAT THE FULL HOUSE CAN ACT UPON IT IN AN EXPEDITIOUS MANNER DURING THIS SESSION OF THE CONGRESS.

THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIRWOMAN.
STATEMENT OF THE
HONORABLE BOB EDGAR
CHAIRMAN
HOUSE VETERANS AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE
BEFORE THE
HOUSE TASK FORCE ON LIBRARIES AND MEMORIALS
JULY 10, 1985

Madam Chairman, let me express my appreciation to you and the Members of the Task Force for your interest in and support of H.R. 2205, which would establish a national memorial in recognition of our Korean War veterans.

As a cosponsor of this important legislation, I want to join with my colleagues today in saying that this legislation and the memorial it will authorize are fully appropriate, necessary and long overdue.

As a Member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and Chairman of its Hospitals and Health Care Subcommittee, I seldom have the opportunity to sit at the witness table in our own committee room. Normally we sit where you are sitting. The memorials we build for our nation's veterans in this room are living memorials: memorials in health care programs, compensation, education, and rehabilitation for those who have served and sacrificed so much in defense of our nation.
This is why it is a distinct honor to be here to support a different type of memorial—one in stone; a memorial built by the American people to express their lasting appreciation and the gratitude of generations to come for the service of six million Americans during the Korean Conflict.

In his well-known farewell address before the Congress, General Douglas MacArthur quoted the old barracks ballad which proclaimed, "old soldiers never die; they just fade away." I think it would behoove us today to set the record straight in this Congress and in this, the House Veterans Affairs Committee hearing room.

It is our responsibility to ensure that any soldier, either young or old, should not just "fade away" but should have the support and recognition of the country and people they served. The Korean War Veteran has been called the "silent veteran" in comparison with those who fought in prior or later wars. This memorial will ensure that these men and women need be silent no more.

The memorial will look to the past, 32 years ago. It will commemorate the 54 thousand Americans who died or are missing in action, the 103 thousand who were wounded and all those who left their homes to face combat or imprisonment in Korea. However, it will also stand for the present and the future as a reminder to all of us of the continuing obligation to meet the needs and to respect the sacrifices of those who served during the Korean Conflict.
By 1990, more than one-half of all American men over the age of 65 will be veterans. The five million living veterans of the Korean War will comprise a large percentage of a senior veteran population which will need a growing amount of health care services and medical benefits. Even as we speak today, there are forces in government who are seeking ways of denying health care services to our senior generation of veterans. As the expense or the demand for these services becomes too great, they would too easily forget the Inchon Peninsula, Pork Chop Hill, or the Yalu River of 32 years ago. Time should not lessen or diminish this sacrifice or the obligation of a grateful nation. Nor should we forget that the true cost of any war only just begins when the last shot is fired. This memorial should stand to remind all of us of Korea as well as the Korean veteran.

At an earlier time in our nation's history, following an earlier armed conflict, President Theodore Roosevelt made the following observation:

"A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards. More than that no man is entitled to, and less than that no man shall have."

These words still ring true today for the Korean War veteran and all those who have served in defense of this nation.
Madam Chair and members of the Task Force, I would like to thank you for holding hearings on this very important legislation and for offering me the opportunity to testify.

The erection of a memorial to the 5.7 million Americans who served in the Korean War has been a matter of top priority for me. As such, on May 22 I introduced H.R. 2588, the Korean War Veterans Memorial Act of 1985. To date, my bill has 145 cosponsors. Following introduction of H.R. 2588, Senator Bill Armstrong introduced a companion bill in the Senate which is enjoying similar support.

This bill authorizes the American Battle Monuments Commission to provide for design and construction of an appropriate memorial in Washington, D.C. or its environs. The ABMC, an agency of the Federal government, was created by act of Congress in 1923 and charged with the responsibility for the design, construction and maintenance of military cemeteries and memorials on foreign soil, as well as for certain memorials on American soil.
Of course, H.R.2588 provides that site selection and design for the memorial would have to meet with the approval of the Commission on Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission. In addition, the bill stipulates that, upon completion of construction, the memorial would be turned over to the Department of Interior for permanent maintenance.

While the bill introduced by my colleague, Mr. Florio, charges the Department of Interior with site selection, design and construction, it is my understanding that he intends to amend the bill to transfer responsibility for design and construction to the ABMC. I commend him for that action and, in its amended form, H.R.2205 would have my full support.

The bills introduced by Mr. Florio, Senator Armstrong and myself all authorize that federal funds shall be appropriated to erect the memorial, in any fiscal year after FY 1985. The reason we opted to go with federal funding is really quite simple. Allow me to explain using as an example, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, a private organization which raised the funds necessary to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
The VVMF raised eleven million dollars for their memorial while the memorial itself cost in the area of $3.4 million. The balance went for fundraising, office space, and other overhead costs. With that in mind, I posed the following question to the number crunchers at the Internal Revenue Service: "What would be the estimated tax revenue loss to the treasury on 11 million dollars in charitable contribution deductions?" The answer that came back was "about $3.5 million." So, financially speaking, it's a wash. Since it really wouldn't cost much more, if any more, we ought to just get it done using federal funds.

Of course, this does not rule out private contributions to the cause. Indeed, the American Battle Monuments Commission is authorized through its original charter to accept private contributions. As such, an account has been set up at the ABMC for this purpose.

On June 25th of this year, ceremonies in South Korea and the United States marked the 35th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. On that day, the millions of Americans who proudly served in that war, along with their families and friends, surely reflected on the Korean War and its effect on their lives.
Unfortunately, however, the majority of Americans were more than likely not thinking about this group of 5.7 million forgotten veterans and the sacrifices which they and their families made for their country and for the ideals of freedom and self determination. We must not forget that 34 thousand of these brave Americans made the ultimate sacrifice in that war.

It is a sad state of affairs indeed when, after 35 years, no action has yet been taken to acknowledge and commend the sacrifices of these men and women. The Korean war veterans are the only group not to be honored with a memorial in our nation's capital.

I would ask that the Task Force take favorable action on H.R.2205 and urge the full committee to do the same. This brave group of Americans has been leapfrogged by time and we in the Congress have the ability to rectify the situation. The time is now.

I would be happy to answer any questions which the Task Force might have.

Thank you.
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.
Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Task Force:

I am Colonel Ryan, Director of Operations and Finance for the American Battle Monuments Commission. On behalf of the Commission, I wish to thank you for the opportunity of testifying today on H.R. 2205, a bill to erect a national memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia or its environs, honoring members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Korean War. I know that the Veterans of that war commend you highly for holding this hearing, for it has been thirty-five years since the North Koreans attacked in force across the 38th Parallel in the early morning hours of 25 June 1950. If the veterans of that war who are still living and the immediate members of the families of those who died in Korea are going to have an opportunity to view for themselves this nation’s appreciation of their service, their achievements and most of all their sacrifices, then erection of a memorial should commence without delay.

Just a few statistics to put the Korean War into perspective, 5,720,000 Americans served in the military forces during the three-year period of the Korean War (1950-1953). Of that number, 103,000 were wounded and of the wounded 33,600 died. An additional 21,400 died of non-battle causes for a total of 55,000 service deaths in the Korean War. During the ten-year period of the Vietnam War, there were 58,000 service deaths. This will give you some idea of the intensity of the fighting in Korea during its relatively short duration.
Title 36, Section 123 of the U.S. Code prescribes in part that the
"American Battle Monuments Commission shall prepare plans and estimates
for the erection of suitable memorials to commemorate the services of
the American Armed Forces, and shall erect and maintain memorials in the
United States and at such places outside the United States where the
American Armed Forces have served since April 6, 1917 or shall hereafter
serve, as the Commission shall determine."

Accordingly, for a number of years the Commission has had a Korean
War Memorial high on its list of planned projects. The great cost of
the Vietnam War and subsequent budget deficits unfortunately have mitigated
against appropriation of the necessary funds.

Regardless of whether the Korean War Memorial is built from privately
donated funds, appropriated funds, or a combination of both, should you
and your distinguished colleagues so determine, the American Battle Monuments
Commission would feel most honored and privileged to be designated the
agency authorized to erect the memorial.

This completes the prepared portion of my statement, I will be happy
to respond to any questions that you may have concerning it.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today.
STATEMENT OF

JOHN S. LOREC

AMVETS National Commander

Before The

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, TASK FORCE ON
LIBRARIES AND MEMORIALS

U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

On

H.R. 2205, A Bill to Authorize The Establishment of A Memorial
On Federal Land In The District Of Columbia Or Its Environs,
To Honor Members Of The United States Armed Forced Who Served
In The Korean War.

1:00 p.m., 10 July 1985, Room 334, CHOB
Madam Chairwoman, on behalf of the more than 200,000 members of AMVETS, I am most appreciative of the opportunity to enthusiastically endorse enactment of H.R. 2205, introduced by a friend of veterans of long standing, Congressman James Florio of New Jersey, which, I am proud to claim as my home state.

H.R. 2205 authorizes the Federal Government to erect and maintain 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, particularly those who were killed in action, listed as missing in action or held as prisoners of war. As we understand, the final form of the bill will give this responsibility to the American Battle Monuments Commission.

As we approach the 32nd anniversary of the Armistice which terminated the fighting in the Korean War, those more than 5 million of us living Americans who served during that first major challenge to the ramparts of freedom after World War II are deeply honored by this proposed legislation, as well as the diligent efforts of Senators Denton of Alabama, Armstrong of Colorado and Congressman Stan Parris of Virginia who are sponsoring or supporting similar legislation in the Congress.

AMVETS has been in the forefront of veterans organizations in working for a Korean War Memorial since our 40th National Con-
vention. One of our Past National Commanders of AMVETS, Mr. Robert L. Wilbraham of Ohio is a board member of a group of Korean veterans who are working toward the same goal by raising private funds. In this connection, we concur with the suggested modification of H.R. 2205, which would authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to receive private donations for the project.

The justly deserved tribute to our Vietnam veterans, which is now the most attended monument in our Nation's Capitol, reminds us more than ever of the heroic sacrifices of the silent veterans of the "forgotten war."

AMVETS—enthusiastically subscribes to the statement of the Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Congress G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery of Mississippi, that, "This type of recognition is long overdue."
Thank you for the privilege of appearing before this distinguished Task Force to present the views of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

My name is Donald H. Schwab and it is my privilege to serve the more than two million men and women of the Veterans of Foreign Wars as their National Legislative Director.

The letter of invitation from you, Madam Chairwoman, calls up for hearing H.R. 2205 introduced by the Honorable James J. Florio for himself, the Honorable G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery, Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and the Honorable John Paul Hammerschmidt, Ranking Minority Member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. The bill, which now enjoys a large number of bipartisan cosponsors, was introduced on April 24, 1985, and is identified as the "Korean War Memorial Act." Under the provisions thereof, the Secretary of the Interior is required to erect and maintain a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia or its vicinity.
environs to honor those who served in our Armed Forces during the Korean war, particularly those killed in action, listed as missing in action, or held prisoners of war. In addition, H.R. 2205 authorizes the appropriation of such funds as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the Act.

The instant legislation fulfills the thrust of our current VFW Resolution No. 308 entitled "A Korean War Memorial," a copy of which is appended to my testimony.

It is my understanding, Madam Chairwoman, that the Task Force intends to amend H.R. 2205 by substituting the American Battle Monuments Commission for the Secretary of the Interior as the action agency. This, of course, would be in conformance with current law since 36 USC 123 stipulates:

"The Commission shall prepare plans and estimates for the erection of suitable memorials to commemorate the services of the American Armed Forces, and shall erect and maintain memorials in the United States and at such places outside the United States where the American Armed Forces have served since April 6, 1917, or shall hereafter serve, as the Commission shall determine."

In accordance with the foregoing, Madam Chairwoman, the American Battle Monuments Commission has sought the necessary appropriation for a quarter of a century having been rebuffed in turn by both the old Bureau of the Budget and the President's Office of Management and Budget. The Commission is authorized by 36 USC 128 to also receive funds for this purpose from any State, municipal or private source; and if adequately publicized and vigorously pursued, donations could reduce the Federal expenditures and bathe the monument in an aura of true national pride and remembrance.

I would be remissed, indeed, if I failed to mention that also pending before this Task Force is H.R. 2588 introduced by the Honorable Stanford E. Parris on May 22, 1985. Similar to H.R. 2205, Mr. Parris' bill also enjoys a large number of cosponsors.
As is a matter of record, of the 5.7 million who served in our Armed Forces during the Korean war, 5.2 million are still living—103,000 were wounded of whom 33,000 died and an additional 21,400 expired of non-battle causes—and some 5,000 were captured or listed as missing in action.

In view of the above statistics, it is inconceivable, indeed, that while for interment in Arlington National Cemetery we as a Nation go to the greatest extremes to locate and properly honor an unknown of each war, yet, we as a Nation treat as non-persons, unmourned and, yes, thus unhonored, those known valiant men and women who made the supreme sacrifice; those who were wounded; those who were prisoners of war; those veterans who have returned to their civilian endeavors and those so disabled that they will remain hospitalized the remainder of their lives.

Advancing and seeing through to fruition the necessary legislation, even though belated, would bring lasting, tangible tribute to those who fought in such places as Yongdungp'o, Taegon-ni, Seoul, Pork Chop Hill, and Pyong-Yang, among others.

In conclusion, permit me to thank the Chairwoman and members of the Task Force for holding this hearing. On behalf of our many members who are Korean veterans and all Korean veterans, the VFW urges early advancement of appropriate legislation.

Thank you.
Resolution No. 308

A NATIONAL KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

WHEREAS, 5.7 million American citizens served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the Korean War, 54,236 gave their lives, 103,248 were wounded, and 5,178 were captured or were missing in action; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a National Memorial to recognize the valor of those persons will assure that their dedication and sacrifice will be honored; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States want the brave deeds of those men and women recognized; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States desire to pay special tribute to those men and women who gave so much to their country during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States wish to express their desire by the establishment of a lasting memorial to those whose courage and sacrifice should be remembered; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 85th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support House Joint Resolution No. 236 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 97 which "Authorizes the erection of a memorial on public grounds in the District of Columbia, or its environs, in honor and commemoration of members of the Armed Forces of the United States and the Allied Forces who served in the Korean War;" the passage of which would result in the construction of a National Korean War Memorial.

MADAM CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE:

My name is Thomas G. Dehne, I am an Assistant National Adjutant and Director of Administration for the more than one million members of the Disabled American Veterans.

Initially, Madam Chair, the DAV wishes to express our deep appreciation for the invitation to appear here today to discuss our views on legislation which proposes to erect a memorial to honor this nation's Korean War veterans.

As you are aware, Madam Chair, it has been more than 30 years since the signing of a truce at Panmunjom, Korea, which officially ended the fighting between the communists and the United Nation forces in Korea.

Although the fighting in Korea has been called a "police action" or "conflict," I can assure you that the more than 37 months of combat endured by American military forces in Korea was, indeed, a war.
It was a war in which nearly seven million Americans took up arms in a far away country to fight against communist aggression. It was a war in which American casualties totalled more than 54,000 dead, over 103,000 wounded, and 8,195 listed as missing-in-action.

Yet, Madam Chair, the sacrifices made by these men and women have not received the recognition they truly deserve.

Over the years, the United States has erected many monuments and memorials to honor those who have served our nation in time of need. Yet, the only recognition afforded our Korean War veterans is at the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii, which memorializes the sacrifices of American armed forces in the Pacific during World War II, Korea, and the missing-in-action of Vietnam.

While this memorial certainly does honor the sacrifices of those who served in the Korean War, we feel that by erecting a memorial in our nation's Capitol, Korean War veterans will finally take their place alongside veterans of other wars and receive the just recognition they deserve.

Given the recent recognition surrounding the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and when considering that the Korean War followed close on the heels of World War II, it is
understandable that Korean War veterans are now being referred to as the only remaining "forgotten warriors" and not without justification.

How many Americans remember names like "Pork Chop Hill," "Old Baldy," "Finger Ridge," "Triangle Hill," or the month long battle for "Heartbreak Ridge?"

How many remember the two agonizing years of truce talks during which American casualties were high and our fighting forces had to endure extreme weather conditions?

How many remember the many heroic acts of our fighting forces--especially those 131 men who received our nation's highest award for heroism, the Congressional Medal of Honor?

Madam Chair, I certainly do remember the Korean War, as I was one of the participants in that war. While serving with the First Marine Division in August, 1952, somewhere on the Western Front, I received wounds that necessitated my evacuation to a hospital in the United States and subsequent honorable discharge from active military service.

I am not bitter, nor do I feel that my service was for naught. However, I do feel it is high time that our nation finally and officially recognizes the sacrifices made by those of us who took up arms in an effort to contain communist aggression in Korea and, indeed, the world.
Yes, Madam Chair, it is time to erect a memorial in the capitol of this great country to honor the service rendered by Korean War veterans.

In response to the strong desire of our membership to honor those veterans who served during the Korean War, the delegates to our most recent annual National Convention approved a resolution supporting the construction of a suitable memorial in Washington, D.C., to honor all veterans who served during the Korean War.

Madam Chair, the DAV believes H.R. 2205 will accomplish this goal.

As introduced, on April 24, 1985, by Mr. Florio (for himself, Mr. Montgomery, and Mr. Hammerschmidt), H.R. 2205 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to erect and maintain 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—particularly those who were killed-in-action, listed as missing-in-action or held as prisoners-of-war.

H.R. 2205 also directs the National Fine Arts Commission and the National Capitol Planning Commission to approve the site selection, design and plans for construction of this memorial and authorizes to be appropriated such funds (beginning on or after October 1, 1985) as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.
We therefore recommend that H.R. 2205 be favorably considered by the members of this distinguished Task Force.

This concludes my statement, Madam Chair, and I again would like to thank you and the members of this Task Force for allowing us to present our views on this most important legislation. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.
Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Task Force:

I wish to thank you for the privilege of appearing before the Task Force to present my views on H.R. 2205.

By way of introduction, I am a retired United States Air Force Command Pilot with over 5,000 hours of military flying experience, and served in both the Korean Police Action and the Vietnam War. I was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster in Korea, and the Bronze Star in Vietnam. Further, I am officially recognized by the U.S. Air Force as the Aircraft Commander of the B-26 that dropped the last bomb of the Korean Conflict at 9:33 p.m. on the night of July 27, 1953.

At the request of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, I have donated my flying helmet, goggles, scarf and other memorabilia of that mission to the Museum for exhibit.

My views as an individual on the justification for a Korean War Memorial as outlined in H.R. 2205 are simple and direct. As a veteran of both conflicts, it has become a source of personal frustration and embarrassment to me that the United States of America now finds itself with a fitting memorial to the 58,000 service deaths that occurred during the 10 years of the Vietnam War, but no
suitable remembrance of the 55,000 service deaths that occurred during the 3 years of the Korean Conflict. Since my retirement in 1970, I have had numerous conversations with friends and members of my family about the Korean Conflict. During these discussions, I have found that many Americans assume that there already is a Korean War Memorial, and are consistently astounded to learn that no such memorial exists.

Since the Vietnam War Memorial has now established a precedent of having been built by privately donated funds, I feel that it is of considerable importance that your distinguished Task Force acknowledge this precedent and formulate recommendations to accompany H.R. 2205, with respect to the building of a Korean War Memorial, either from privately donated funds, appropriated funds, or a combination thereof.

Again, I thank the Chairwoman and members of the Task Force for the opportunity to testify. I will be happy to respond to any questions that you may have concerning my prepared remarks.
Statement of

The American Legion

1608 K STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

from

JOSEPH E. MILLER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION
THE AMERICAN LEGION

to the

TASK FORCE ON LIBRARIES AND MEMORIALS
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

on

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

JULY 10, 1985
Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Task Force on Libraries and Memorials,

The American Legion is pleased to have the opportunity to present its views relative to a War Memorial honoring the veterans of the Korean War. It is indeed fitting that after so many years steps are finally being taken to recognize the contributions of the men and women who served in the Korean War. The Legion also recognizes this need and in May of 1984 adopted its Resolution #32 which called for "a monument to be erected on public grounds ... in honor and commemoration of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Korean War".

Madam Chairwoman, the Korean War veteran has been called the silent veteran, the veteran who did his duty and returned quietly to civilian life after the war. Even now, nearly three years after the original dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and on the eve of the 32nd anniversary of the signing of the Armistice between the U.N. and North Korea, the call for a Korean War Memorial has been a quiet call. While this appeal may not be accompanied by a great deal of fanfare, no one can deny the contributions of more than 5.7 million Korean War veterans, and the sacrifices of 54,000 who gave their lives in a nation slightly larger than Indiana, as well as the 103,000 who were wounded there.

Like the veterans of World War II and the veterans of America's most recent conflict, the men and women who served during the Korean War have contributed to the economic growth and development of this nation. Veterans Administration records indicate that over 2.3 million persons, 43.4 percent of Korean War veterans eligible, took advantage of the educational and training opportunities offered by the GI Bill. This training gave the nation 18,000 new doctors, 8,000 dentists, 3,500 nurses, 187,000 engineers
and more than 142,000 teachers. Still others returned to jobs and careers in which they had been involved prior to entering the Armed Services.

The similarities between the veterans of the Korean War and the war in Vietnam do not end with economic and technological contributions made by these men and women. Indeed, like the veterans of America's most recent conflict, the veterans of Korea did not come home to parades, banners and glory. Instead, like the veterans of Vietnam, they came home and edged their way back into a semblance of normalcy within their communities. Yet, the Korean War isn't really over. It is true that a temporary ceasefire was signed on July 27, 1953 and that the war was officially declared at an end by Presidential Order, but it is equally true that to this day, American and North Korean negotiators sit at Panmunjom discussing border violations, a peace treaty and the reunification of North and South Korea.

The Korean War began 35 years ago. After a quasi-ceasefire, it took nearly a year and a half for the North Koreans to agree to an armistice. It took from 1953 to 1972 for the North Koreans to agree to discuss the possibility of reuniting the two Koreas.

Today, there are several bills pending before the 99th Congress which seek to authorize the construction of a Memorial to the veterans of the Korean War. The American Legion feels that such a Memorial is not only appropriate but also highly deserved. When completed, a Memorial to the veterans of Korea will provide, in part, the recognition and honor that is long overdue.

Madam Chairwoman, that concludes our statement.
H.R. 2205

NON-WITNESS STATEMENTS
BEFORE THE
TASK FORCE ON LIBRARIES AND MEMORIALS
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

Madam Chair, Members of the Task Force:

My name is John Kenney and I am President of the National Committee for the Korean War Memorial.

On behalf of our organization I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify on HR 2205 which addresses the establishment of a memorial in the Nation’s Capital to honor members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Korean War.

The idea of establishing a Korean War Memorial dates back at least as far as the mid-1960's when the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) was seeking an appropriation of funds to erect the memorial. At that time the request was turned down because of the high cost of prosecuting the war in Viet Nam. More recent attempts by the ABMC have been turned down because of concern for budget deficits.

The most recent effort to establish a memorial by a non-profit organization in the private sector had its genesis in August, 1979.

At that time, Ms. Chayon Kim, a Korean-born U.S. citizen who recalls her early childhood with memories of huddling in a bunker while American B-29s dropped bombs on North Korean troops all around her hiding place — and who was the first curator of the 2d U.S. Infantry Division Museum, Camp Howze, Korea — was involved in coordination of a luncheon in New York for officials of the Korean Veterans Association, members of the press, and some American veterans of the Korean War. As a part of this affair, Ms. Kim also arranged for and participated in a conference with Mrs. Douglas MacArthur and the Korean Veterans Association officials. At the end of the month a letter from Mrs. MacArthur inspired Ms. Kim with the idea of establishing a Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

After two years of investigation and study into the means of establishing a memorial in Washington, she moved to this city and set out on her mission. She visited the ABMC, the offices of the Capital Region of the National Park Service, and the Superintendent of Records and Deeds of the District of Columbia to get the information she needed to get started on her project. In November, 1981, she enlisted the aid of two new-found acquaintances to act as co-incorporators on a non-profit organization she chose to call — the National Committee for the Korean War Memorial. Today, the original organization is known as the Korean War Memorial, Inc.

Ms. Kim is now an incorporator, director, and Secretary and Treasurer, of a new National Committee for the Korean War Memorial which has as its objective the establishment of a memorial to honor and commemorate the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces of the United States and its twenty-one allied nations who fought under the banner of the United Nations to preserve the independence of the Republic of Korea from Communist domination. I serve as President of the new organization.

We are not here today to discuss the differences between the two organizations.
We are here to add our voice to the idea that the time has come to re-examine approaches to the establishment of a memorial that everyone agrees is long overdue. As we look at the past we find that two basic approaches can be defined.

- Establish the memorial through the action of a governmental agency (e.g., American Battle Monuments Commission) using funds appropriated by the Congress for that purpose.

- Establish the memorial through the action of a private institution using funds collected by public subscription.

Both of these approaches have been used in the past: the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Commission is chartered by the Congress to establish a memorial to a great President; the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial was successfully established using contributions and donations from all over the land; the Marine Corps Memorial and the memorials to the Sea Bees and the First and Second Infantry Divisions are examples of memorials which were, for the most part, funded by the members of the organizations they represent.

The idea of a Korean War Memorial has been so long delayed in coming, however, that it has no a dedicated following, like a unit organization or a generation of young people highly motivated to commemorate their comrades who died in a war nobody understood. The Korean War Memorial has as its objective preserving the memory of the service and sacrifice of people who fought in a war which began thirty-five years ago, and many of those who served in that war are not fully convinced that there will ever be a memorial to their service any more than there were parades to welcome them home in 1953. Therefore, if there is to be memorial for them, the effort to see it established must be provided by a surrogate organization dedicated to the successful completion of the task.

In November, 1981, it appeared that the best approach was to develop an organization in the private sector which would obtain its support from public subscriptions. So far, for a number of reasons, that approach has not worked.

Today, the best approach to the problem is to turn the project over to a governmental agency and provide that organization with the resources to get the job done.

One of the two bills recently introduced in the House assigns the task to the American Battle Monuments Commission, and that is an excellent choice. It is a Federal agency staffed with experienced military officers, and for them, the establishment of a Korean War Memorial will become a defined mission to be accomplished in a professional manner by professional personnel. Even if the ABMC staff must be augmented to encompass the new task, the administrative costs of establishing the memorial will be far less than those associated with supporting a comparable administrative structure in the private sector. Also, as a Federal agency, the American Battle Monuments Commission is subject to reviews and audits accomplished by the General Accounting Office. There can be no question as to accountability and responsibility for accomplishment of the task.

Having settled on the appropriateness of selecting the American Battle Monuments Commission as the agency best suited to the task, let us turn to the
provision of resources. Congress has the authority to enact legislation to provide sufficient funding for the establishment of the memorial. Such an action is inherent in the assignment of the task to that agency. However, in these times of concern over mounting Federal budget deficits, this action can also bring an unfavorable response from the American public over what could be perceived as an unnecessary expense.

The selection of the American Battle Monuments Commission as the agency to establish a Korean War Memorial provides a unique opportunity to address this problem as well.

The enabling legislation which establishes the American Battle Monuments Commission also allows the commission to accept donations and subscriptions from the private sector which can be used to defray expenses which would normally be met with appropriated funds. Therefore, the possibility exists that Congress might be placed in the position of merely underwriting the initial expenses of a memorial which could, in the long run, be paid for, in full, by donations and subscriptions from the American public.

The greatest advantage of this approach to providing resources for this task is not only that it provides for public financing and accountability, but also it gives the American people the opportunity to participate personally and directly in the cause. There are already five donations, totaling eighty dollars, residing in a Korean War Memorial account established by the American Battle Monuments Commission. Who can say how much that account can grow if the American people take this task to heart?

All we have to do is to let them know that the goal to establish a Korean War Memorial in the Nation's Capital is alive and well and in good hands, and they will do the rest.

Who will tell them? The President of the United States when he signs the enabling legislation into law; 535 Members of Congress in their constituent newsletters; the national veterans' associations and their local affiliates through their national and local publications; the members of the press, who never miss a good story; radio and television outlets in public service announcements, and other good-hearted citizens who will contact their friends and tell them about the project.

The brunt of the burden of rallying public support should be borne by the organizations whose raison d'être is representing the best interests of those who have served in the armed forces of this nation, the national veterans organizations. Working together with the American Battle Monuments Commission and providing the impetus for the long overdue recognition for those who served in Korea War and their families could be their finest hour in this decade. It is a challenge they should not refuse.

I urge this task force to go forward with a favorable recommendation for the passage of HR 2205, the Korean War Memorial Act of 1985.

Thank you for this opportunity.
STATEMENT OF
CONGRESSMAN GUY V. MOLINARI
ON THE
KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL ACT
TO THE
TASK FORCE ON LIBRARIES AND MEMORIALS
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
JULY 10, 1985

Members of the Task Force, as a Korean War veteran and cosponsor of H.R. 2205, I want to express my strong support for the Korean War Memorial Act. I commend you for conducting this hearing and am hopeful that this legislation will soon be approved not only by the Task Force, but by the Congress as well.

As one walks about Washington with its many war memorials and monuments, it soon becomes obvious that something is missing—a fitting tribute to our Korean War dead and those who served in that conflict. Thirty years have passed since the end of the Korean War and we should, as a nation, express our appreciation and gratitude to the Americans who served in Korea and memorialize the loss of those who never returned. A memorial to our servicemen who fought so bravely under severe personal hardships is long overdue. Having served in Korea myself, I saw firsthand many examples of extraordinary courage and sacrifice by my fellow Americans.
When the North Korean army attacked across the 38th parallel on June 25, 1950, with 100,000 troops armed and trained by the Soviet Union, America and many of our allies responded to the crisis. Three years later, with both sides claiming victory, a peace agreement was signed. However, the price we paid for that peace was high. In those few years, 54,246 Americans lost their lives, 4,600 were taken prisoner and over 103,000 were wounded. Close to two million American servicemen fought in the war, a war about which most Americans, unfortunately, quickly became apathetic.

This memorial is a deserving one and will serve to show that we fully recognize the contribution of our Korean veterans. I believe that this legislation will provide the proper means of funding by both private and public sources, site selection and design to correct this lack of a Korean War Memorial and I urge the Task Force to act favorably today on H.R. 2205.
Hon. Mary Rose Oakar, Chair
Task Force on Libraries and Memorials
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ms. Oakar,

I am writing in regard to H.R. 2205, a proposal for a memorial to those who served in the Korean Conflict. I understand that a hearing is scheduled for July 10th, to consider this proposal.

As one who was twice wounded in the Korean action, I certainly could think of many things to say on this subject. However, in the interest of brevity, I will only report the opinions of my fine organization.

At our 1983 National Convention, I offered a motion in support of a Korean Memorial. It had unanimous approval. Our position today remains unchanged. We ask that the Members of the Task Force be informed of our organization's support for H.R. 2205.

Sincerely,

Maurice E. Loir
Legislative Director

cc: Hon. James J. Florio
Hon. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery

EXCLUSIVELY FOR COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS