Parris proposes a memorial for Korean War vets

By Matt Neufeld

Rep. Stan Parris, R-Va., yesterday introduced a bill that would authorize a memorial to the nation's 5.7 million men and women who served in the armed forces during the Korean War.

"There are no public memorials to the sacrifices of the people who were killed in the Korean conflict," said Mr. Parris, who served in the Air Force during that war.

As he introduced the Korean Veterans Memorial Act of 1985 on the House floor, Mr. Parris said: "It is incredible to note that there is not yet a memorial in the nation's capital to the veterans of the Korean War — the only group of war veterans not to be so honored."

"The legislation which I have introduced seeks to authorize the erection of a memorial by the American Battle Monuments Commission to honor all those 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."

A bill similar to Mr. Parris' could be introduced in the Senate today or tomorrow, said Lee Stillwell, press secretary for Sen. William L. Armstrong, R-Colo. "The senator is very interested in the issue and has been exploring possible legislative action for a memorial for the Korean veterans," Mr. Stillwell said.

Mr. Parris' bill stipulates that the site selection, design and construction of the memorial be subject to approval of the National Commission of the Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission. Funds for the memorial would be appropriated by Congress and the memorial would be maintained by the Interior Department.

The bill proposes that the memorial be constructed on federal land in the District or near the District.

"We definitely do favor the establishment of a Korean War monument on public grounds," said American Legion spokesman Jim Wick. "We prefer that it be funded by donations from the private sector. We do not want them to use government funds."

The Veterans of Foreign Wars supports a Korean War memorial, but wants it to be funded by the government.

"We don't want this thing to be built the way the Vietnam Veterans Memorial had to be built" with private funds, said VFW spokesman Ronald Duchin. "We feel that it's appropriate for the government to put in the funds because the government sent the people over there to fight in the war."

"We think it's a wonderful idea," said Col. William E. Ryan, director of operations and finance for the American Battle Monuments Commission. The commission asked for $250,000 in design money for a Korean War memorial in its 1986 budget, but the request was turned down.

U.S. buys 2nd Bull Run battle site

"Hunting of artifacts has been going on for some time," park superintendent Rolland Swain said, explaining the government's interest in preserving the property. "Collectors use metal detectors to dig up..."

It was that battle that earned Confederate Gen. Thomas J. Jackson the nickname "Stonewall." About 4,500 troops died in the first battle, while more than 100,000 fought in the second and 23,000 lost..."