August 28, 1989

Enclosed is a letter from Mr. Hal Barker, who is currently writing a book concerning the Korean War Veterans' Memorial. As the names and addresses of contributors to the memorial fund are protected by the Privacy Act of 1976, Mr. Barker's letter is being forwarded to you through this Commission. The letter is self-explanatory.

If you wish to respond to Mr. Barker's letter, please do so by using the self-addressed stamped envelope which he provided.

Information concerning the current status of the memorial project may be found in the enclosed brochure.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM E. RYAN, JR.
Colonel, AD
Director of Operations
and Finance

Encls.
To Whom It May Concern:

In December, 1984, I made a $10 contribution to the American Battle Monuments Commission, and started the Korean War Veterans Memorial Fund. Much has happened since then.

Your own early donation to the Memorial Fund is a private matter, so I have asked the American Battle Monuments Commission to forward this letter to you, with the hope that you might consider contacting me.

I am attempting to contact the first 50 contributors to the Memorial Fund in preparation for a future book about the early contributors to the Fund. Each of us has different reasons for remembering the Korean War. I would like to know your reasons.

My own father was a helicopter rescue pilot with Marine Observation Squadron Six in 1951-1952. He would never talk about the ribbons on his uniform, or the Silver Star he won at Heartbreak Ridge. I had to find out for myself.

I have included a stamped envelope with the hope that I might hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Hal Barker
September 18, 1989

Mr. Hal Barker
8656 Park Lane #2008
Dallas, TX 75231

Dear Mr. Barker:

I have received Colonel William E. Ryan's letter dated August 28 and, as requested, I am responding direct to you.

The following are some of my reasons for contributing to the Korean War Veterans' Memorial Fund:

(1) I was proud of my service as 81mm Mortar Platoon Leader, Assistant Battalion S-3, and Infantry (Rifle) Company Commander. Most of all, I loved and was proud of my Infantrymen. They suffered, but they continued to laugh at times.

(2) My memories include being wounded twice and receiving Silver Star, Bronze Star with V, and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster.

(3) I remember several battles, including Hungnam, Christmas 1950, where I was one of the last to be evacuated and saw the harbor blow up when my LCI was only a few hundred yards from shore.

(4) I remember General of the Army, Douglas MacArthur, at age 71, providing personal inspiring leadership on the battlefield in March 1951 — and then President Harry Truman relieved the General approximately three weeks later.

Sincerely,

Bernard W. Abrams