



THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Established by Congress 1923

June 26, 2001

Ms. Ruth Coder Fitzgerald
President
Vietnam War In Memory Memorial, Inc.
808 Charlotte Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Dear Ms. Fitzgerald:

The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) is fully committed to erecting a memorial plaque of the highest quality that will appropriately honor those casualties of the Vietnam War, as specified by PL 106-214.

At last Thursday's Commission of Fine Arts hearing, we were surprised to learn that both the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., and the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, Inc., had very definitive ideas regarding the plaque concepts, since they chose not to share those concerns with us in the weeks following our similar presentation to the National Capital Memorial Commission on April 26th.

We noted that your husband, Barry, introduced a statement on your behalf. We also recall that your organization was one that responded positively to our request for input last year regarding the five design elements that we had identified for the memorial plaque project.

To get our overall cooperative effort back on track, we would appreciate receiving an update on specific recommendations from your organization relative to: size, shape, composition (materials), siting, and inscription of the proposed plaque. I trust you will agree that reaching closure on these five design elements is critical to ABMC's timely completion of this Congressionally mandated project. To that end, we would like to receive your comments as soon as possible, and certainly by the end of August. If you so desire, you will also be provided an opportunity to personally brief the Secretariat on your organization's views.

We are again providing this same opportunity to the other organizations with a stated interest in this important project. This commission will consider all viewpoints prior to reinitiating the approval process specified by the Commemorative Works Act. Our earnest hope is to present a siting, design concept and inscription program to the CFA, and then to the National Capital Planning Commission, that all interested parties can support.

If you cannot provide your recommendations by the end of August, please advise us how much time you and your organization require. However, since you have known about and been working on this project for over a year, we believe that this is a reasonable period of time. Thank you for your continued interest and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,


Kenneth S. Pond
Executive Director