



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000



29 JUL 1993

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JUL 23 1993

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senator

Lindale Mall
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52407-4884

Dear Senator Harkin:

This is in reply to your inquiry in behalf of Mrs. Ruth Coder Fitzgerald regarding her request for an addition of the name of John Keach Coder to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Memorialisation criteria established by the Department of Defense and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., required the death to have occurred in the combat area (Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia), while the member was participating in a direct combat mission, or in direct support of a combat mission immediately en route to or returning from a target within the combat area. Members who served in Southeast Asia and subsequently died of possible Agent Orange related illnesses have not been approved for name inscription on the Memorial.

The organization to which Mrs. Coder is referring is called Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This organization was recently established to honor those who died of various causes associated with the Vietnam Conflict, but whose names are not on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial because the death(s) do not meet the above established criteria. At this writing, the military services have no part in endorsing or supporting this private organization. We suggest Mrs. Fitzgerald contact the organization directly at the following address: Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 2030 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 412, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and trust this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Walter M. Washbaugh
WALTER M. WASHBAUGH, Lt Col, USAF
Congressional Inquiry Division
Office of Legislative Liaison