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Robert W. Doubek
Washington, DC 20016

June 18, 1995

Mrs. Ruth Coder Fitzgerald

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Dear Mrs. Fitzgerald:

I received your letter dated June 10th. I remember your speech well because I identified so closely with your brother. I was an Air Force officer, born in 1944, and I served in Da Nang in 1969. I am also a father of two sons, ages 8 and 10, and I coach sports. I was awed by the courage of the men who flew search and rescue helicopters.

With regard to your suggestion concerning a plaque in the walkway at the vertex of the walls of the memorial, I can offer neither assistance or encouragement. I personally have no time or energy for any additional activities related to the memorial. I led the opposition to the Vietnam Womens' Memorial, and have philosophical problems with any additions. Our organization, the Friends, is surviving through our sales booth on the Mall, and the Park Service wants to limit these activities. Our staff has no capacity for new programs.

In order to make any changes whatsoever to the memorial, you will need an Act of Congress and then the concurrences of the Fine Arts Commission, Planning Commission, etc. I also must add - from hard experience - that no fund raising is easy, regardless of the cause. People give money to people, not to causes, and an infrastructure has to be created to make the appeal.

I'm sorry that I can offer no encouragement, but if you want to discuss this you can call me. My home phone is .

Sincerely,



Robert W. Doubek