



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

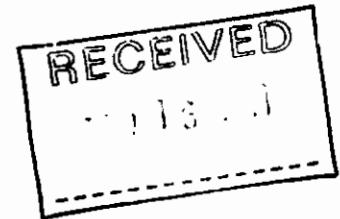
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L3215 (NCR-LRP)

APR - 9 2001

Mr. John M. Fowler
Executive Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
The Old Post Office Building
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Suite 809
Washington, D.C. 20004



Dear Mr. Fowler:

Public Law 106-214 (copy enclosed) directs the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to place within the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial a plaque to honor those Vietnam Veterans who died after service in the Vietnam War, but as a direct result of that service. Public Law 106-214 further requires that the plaque be no less than 6 square feet and no larger than 18 square feet in size. Accordingly, the discretion Congress has accorded the National Park Service (NPS) and the ABMC in the creation of this plaque is limited to proposing a portion of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site, and development of a proposed design for the plaque consistent with the size constraints imposed by Congress.

Pursuant to the Commemorative Works Act (CWA), final decisions regarding the location and design of the plaque will be made in the course of future presentations by NPS and ABMC to the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC). However, as a preliminary matter the CWA also requires the ABMC, as the sponsoring entity, to consult with the National Capital Memorial Commission (NCMC) on location and design of the plaque before pursuing approvals from the CFA and NCPC. We have scheduled a review of the ABMC's alternative site study by the NCMC during its April 26, 2001 meeting.

We have enclosed the alternative site study and wish to solicit any comments you may have on this proposal. In our opinion, a small plaque although not yet designed, kept at ground level will have a minimal effect on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the historic landscape of West Potomac Park, or the National Register qualities of West Potomac Park. Because this project is limited to the placement of a plaque, there is no apparent reasonable interpretation of the undertaking as a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. We request that you provide us any comments at your earliest convenience.