



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Area
1100 Ohio Drive, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20242

L3217 (NCA-S)

JUL , 7 1996

Honorable Herbert H. Bateman

Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

Dear Mr. Bateman:

This letter is written in response to your inquiry of April 4, 1996, about the feasibility of adding a bronze plaque, at ground level to honor men and women whose death after the war resulted from service in Vietnam.

As you know, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., pursuant to the authority provided by Public Law 96-297, selected and supported approval of the memorial design "in honor and recognition of the men and women of the Armed Services of the United States who served in the Vietnam War". Since the 1980 legislation, the grounds about the memorial and the original design have been amended twice to provide further recognition to our service men and women. The approval for these additions were obtained with great reluctance from the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission which now consider the memorial complete.

The Office of Stewardship and Partnerships has been in contact with Mrs. Ruth Fitzgerald of , Fredericksburg, Virginia. It was with sympathy and understanding of the sacrifices of our veterans that she was informed that the addition of a plaque at the memorial site, according to the standards established by the Commemorative Works Act, would require the passage of legislation. Please refer to Section 2. (c) of Public Law 99-652 (copy enclosed). A copy of our response to Mrs. Fitzgerald is enclosed for your information.

If legislation were enacted to memorialize those who died after the Vietnam War, the National Park Service would, of course, assist the authorized person or organization in the siting and design of a plaque in accordance with established standards. We have so informed Mrs. Fitzgerald. The actions which must be undertaken if the National Park Service is to permit the location of a memorial or commemorative plaque within the Nation's Capital are enclosed.