

Here is an article that I found while digging through a few veteran sites. This article can be found on www.vvmf.org.



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND ANNOUNCES NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR FINAL STRUCTURE ON THE NATIONAL MALL

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 15, 2003 - The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is seeking expressions of interest and qualifications from design teams interested in designing an underground Education Center at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., announced Jan C. Scruggs, Founder and President, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is holding a two-stage national competition to select a team to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center, which according to legislation signed by President George W. Bush last November makes this facility the final structure to be added to the National Mall. The initial review process requires that the lead designer organize a team of professionals and submit the team's qualifications for review. The team must include architects, exhibition designers, landscape architects and engineers. Other consultants may be added at the discretion of the team leader.

"The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is one of the most revered memorials in the world and it is this Memorial to which all other memorials aspire," Scruggs said. "Adding an Education Center to the Memorial site will be a complicated task. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is holding this national competition in an effort to assemble the best minds to work collaboratively to create an educational experience unlike any other, while maintain the integrity of the Memorial."

All submissions must be postmarked by no later than Friday, February 20, 2004. The second stage of the selection process will involve in-person interviews by members of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center Advisory Committee in a public forum. Selected teams will be notified by Monday, March 1, 2004. Second Stage interviews will be conducted on Friday, March 26, 2004. A \$100 entry fee must accompany the initial submission. Only professional teams will be considered.

On November 17, 2003, President Bush amended Public Law 96-297, the original legislation for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, allowing the Memorial Fund to construct an underground Education Center near the Memorial. The Memorial Fund worked tirelessly for more than three years to move the bill through Congress. Senators Chuck Hagel (R-NE), John Kerry (D-MA), John McCain (R-AZ) and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), all Vietnam era veterans, along with House Resources Chairman Richard Pombo (R-CA), Vice Chairman Jim Gibbons (R-NV) and Ranking Member Nick Rahall (D-WV) have been instrumental in the bill's progress through the 108th Congress.

The Education Center will provide a thought-provoking educational experience with exhibits working in synergy with the Memorial. It will feature photographs of those who were killed or remain missing, some of the more than 60,000 items that have been left at The Wall and other engaging displays that will be developed over the next year.

The Memorial Fund will be responsible for raising the funds to build the Education Center, which will cost more than \$20 million and take about three years to complete. No federal funds will be used for the Visitor Center. Between 1980-1982, the Memorial Fund raised \$8.4 million to build The Wall with contributions from individuals, veterans organizations, foundations and corporations.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is the most visited memorial in the nation's capital with more than four million visitors each year. It is dedicated to all who served with U.S. Armed Forces in the Vietnam War and its black granite panels are inscribed with the names of the 58,235 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice. Established in 1979, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is the non-profit organization authorized by Congress to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Today, through a series of outreach programs, the organization works to preserve the legacy of The Wall, to promote healing and to educate about the impact of the Vietnam War.

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