



May 5, 2023

Co-Chair Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair Paul Holvey, committee members

I am Thomas A Weiss, President of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 271 and Vietnam Veterans of America Oregon State Council Delegate. I served in the Pacific Theater, to include Vietnam, for 7 and a half years.

On March 30, 2023, Governor Tina Kotek, on behalf of the State of Oregon, signed a Proclamation which reads in part.

“WHEREAS: More than 58,000 Americans, including 801 Oregonians, made the ultimate sacrifice with their lives and 34 Oregon service members remain missing-in-action...

WHEREAS: Today, nearly 94,000 Vietnam-era live in Oregon and comprise more than a third of Oregon’s veteran population...

WHEREAS: Those who did return did not receive the heroes’ welcome that they deserved...

WHEREAS: Wanting to take demonstrable steps towards healing and reconciling the past and expressing a proper welcome from a grateful state, the Oregon Legislature in 2012 passed legislation designating March 30 of each year as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day...”

The funding of the Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds will be located to the south of the World War II memorial. These two memorials will honor 75% of Oregon’s war dead and share some of the stories of the two wars that caused the most Oregonian casualties.

The Vietnam War Memorial Fund is actively fund raising and they anticipate breaking ground on November 11, 2023 with completion on or before November 11, 2024.

We are asking for a Capital Construction Allocation in the amount of 1.85 million dollars. The total cost will be over 4 million dollars, it is forecast that with this allocation, the funding breakdown will be 55% private donations and 45% state funds.

In addition to over 50 current legislators who support our project and this allocation request, we have secured bi-partisan support from around our great state.

We ask that you give this project and our request the highest priority for funding in this cycle.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thomas A Weiss
Vietnam War Veteran Survivor
3090 Troth Ct SE, Salem, Or 97302
541 527-2722