

Vietnam War Memorial Fund

P O Box 1448
Boring, Oregon 97009
503-663-6271
VietnamWarMem@aol.com
www.OCVVM.com

“Let Us Honor Our Warriors and Remember the Fallen”

Testimony – HB5201

Joint Ways & Means Sub-Committee on Capital Construction February 16, 2024 @ 1 pm Hearing Room F

Co-Chairs Senator Girod and Representative Holvey and Committee Members:

I am Steve Bates, President of the Vietnam War Memorial Fund.

We have asked for \$400,000 to help alleviate the Budget Deficit for Phase 1 Construction of the Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds.

This is needed because of inflation and the economic pressures that have reduced the charitable giving of most Oregonians.

We wish to thank Representative Hieb and Representative Mannix for their sponsorship of this request. We also wish to thank all of the legislators who support this project. From 2023, we have a list of a constitutional majority of supporters in both chambers.

This project has support from all over our great state.

Given this allocation from the General Fund, I can guarantee you that Phase 1 construction will start during the second quarter of 2024 with completion 22 weeks later.

Please provide this allocation so the southwest corner of Willson Park will be a place our Vietnam Veterans are honored and revered for their service and sacrifice.

This is long overdue....we are close to getting Phase 1 done – but, we need your help! Please approve the allocation request for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial!

Thank you for this opportunity.



Steve Bates
President

Attachments: Additional Supporting Documents Follow

The Fund for a Vietnam Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds
The Vietnam War Memorial Fund is a non-profit charitable organization
Tax ID Number: 82-2492302

February 7, 2024

Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Co-Chairs Senator Elizabeth Steiner & Representative Tawna Sanchez
Co-Vice Chairs Senator Fred Girod, Representative David Gomberg and Representative Greg Smith
And Committee Members,

The **Vietnam War Memorial Fund** anticipates the start of construction of Phase 1 of the Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds in 2024.

We have a Phase 1 budget deficit in the amount of about \$400,000. We are asking for assistance from the 2024 legislative assembly to alleviate this budget deficit with a \$400,000 allocation.

It is important that we construct Phase 1 sooner, rather than later. It is estimated that 55% of our Vietnam veterans are still alive. It has been said that our Vietnam veterans are passing at a rate of eight per day. The average age of our Vietnam veterans is 78. The oldest are 100 or over, the youngest are 67. This memorial is a way of honoring their service and preserving their legacy.

The **Vietnam War Memorial Fund** has been hard at work raising funds for this memorial. We are in our seventh year and the total raised combined with additional anticipated revenue is \$3,239,929.

Because of inflationary pressures and economic challenges, the Association of Fundraising Professionals has released data that shows private donors have decreased moderately and fundraising is indeed more difficult. I have attached a portion of this report.


For these two reasons, we are asking for this allocation to help us honor our Vietnam veterans, who are your constituents, with a memorial before more of them pass away.

In 2023, a constitutional majority of Senators and Representatives supported this project. I have attached that list for your perusal.

This project has statewide support. **Please authorize this allocation request.**

Thank you so much for your considerations.

Best Regards,


Steve Bates
President

2023-25 CAPITAL FUNDING REQUEST

PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

Legislative Fiscal Office
900 Court St. NE, H-178
Salem, OR 97301



CONTACT INFORMATION FOR RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION

Organization Legal Name Vietnam War Memorial Fund

Organization Type Non-Profit Federal Tax ID Number 82-2492302

Address P O Box 1448

City Boring State Oregon Zip Code 97009

Contact Person Steve Bates

Contact Phone (503) 663-6271 Contact Email vietnamwarmem@aol.com

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds Phase 1

Project Description

The Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds Phase 1 will include:

- a) A granite column wall bearing the names of the Oregonians who died in service of our country in Vietnam from 1955-1975.
- b) A tribute to all branches of the United States Military that served in Vietnam.
- c) A Welcome Home message to our Vietnam Veterans who never received proper recognition of their service to our country.
- e) Recognition of those who served and returned home to suffer because of their service.
- d) A Soldier's Return sculpture by Oregon artist Libby Carruth which depicts the struggles of the Vietnam veterans who felt invisible upon their return home.
- e) A gathering area and bench seating

Project Location Willson Park - State Capitol State Park - 900 Court St SE - Salem, Oregon

Project Schedule (Please describe the project's readiness, including planned start and end dates and any remaining permits, approvals, or other steps that must be completed prior to beginning.)

The Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds is being scheduled for March 29, 2024 which is the 50th Vietnam Veterans Day. Tentative construction start for Phase 1 is May 1, 2024 pending full funding. This request covers the \$400,000 anticipated deficit that is needed for full funding. The anticipated completion of Phase 1 is November 11, 2024.

PROJECT BUDGET

Estimated Project Cost

Construction/Renovation	<u>1,467,525</u>
Site Improvements	<u>36,156</u>
Land Acquisition	<u> </u>
Architectural and Engineering Fees	<u>771,697</u>
Equipment	<u> </u>
Contingencies	<u>248,636</u>
Other Costs (specify) <u>Administration - Fundraising</u>	<u>319,537</u>
Other Costs (specify) <u>Memorial Elements & Granite</u>	<u>796,378</u>
Estimated Total Project Costs	<u>3,639,929</u>

Amount Requested 400,000 **Percent of Total Project Cost** 11%

Type of Funding Requested General Fund

Matching Funds

State Funds (source) <u>Grants - DAS</u>	<u>1,400,000</u>
Federal Funds (source) <u> </u>	<u> </u>
Private/Other Grants	<u>199,750</u>
Donations/Gifts	<u>855,887</u>
Other Revenues/Financing (source) <u>Foundation Grants</u>	<u>550,000</u>
Other Revenues/Financing (source) <u>Additional Donations/Gifrs</u>	<u>234,292</u>
Total Matching Funds	<u>3,239,929</u>

OTHER INFORMATION

Grants financed through the issuance of bonds are not available until bonds are sold. Multiple factors impact the timing of sales; however, many sales often occur during the last six months of the biennium (Oregon's biennial budget begins on July 1 of odd-numbered years and runs through June 30 of the next odd-numbered year). Significant decreases in revenues or changes in financial conditions subsequent to authorization may also delay or prevent the issuance of bonds, which means that the approved projects or grants would also be delayed or not funded.

Public works projects, including any project that uses \$750,000 or more of public funds for constructing, reconstructing, painting or performing a major renovation on a road, highway, building, structure or improvement of any type, may be subject prevailing wage requirements. Grant recipients must comply with prevailing wage rate laws and should consult the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries to determine whether a project is subject to prevailing wage.

Please return the completed form and any supporting documentation to:

Walt Campbell, Principal Legislative (Bonding) Analyst

walt.campbell@oregonlegislature.gov



< Go to All News



Fundraising Effectiveness Project Data for Q3 2023 Released

Fundraising and Resource Development

AFP, NCN and NAO Jan 11, 2024

The Association of Fundraising Professionals' (AFP) released their Fundraising Effectiveness Project data for Q3 of 2023 data earlier this week. The data shows that through Q3 2023, donors decreased moderately, and donor retention continued to slide downward, driving a decrease in fundraising dollars. This information does not include the final year-end totals, which won't come out until sometime in February or March. As many NAO readers know, we have joined with other state associations, the National Council of Nonprofits and others to continue to push for the *Charitable Act*, which would allow smaller donors the benefit of deductions that are now enjoyed by those who itemize their taxes. When you look at those considered "micro donors"

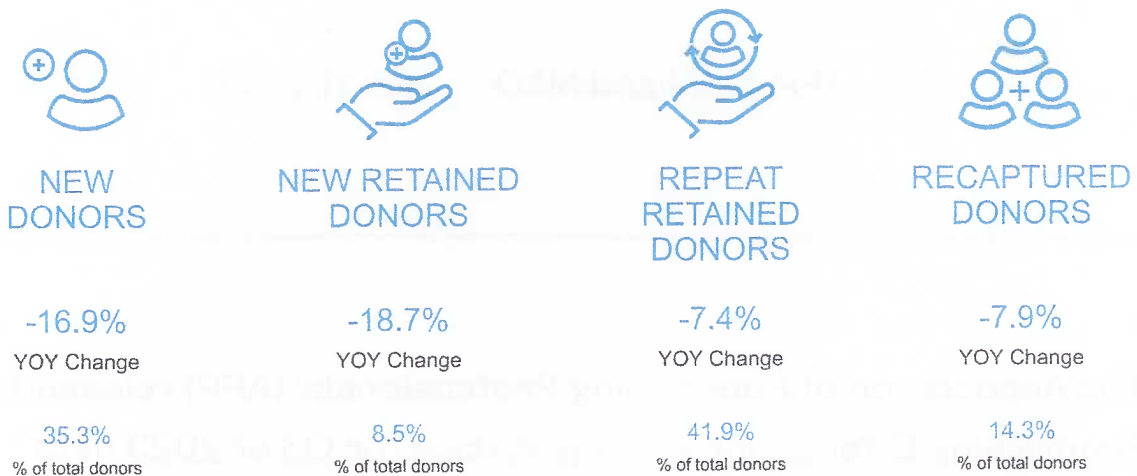


Donors by Life Cycle

Year-to-Date Nonprofit Sector Trends
Q3 2023 (JAN 1, 2023 - SEP 30, 2023)

Key Insights

- New donors dropped by -16.9%, driving another large decrease in donor participation. This group accounted for 53% of the topline decrease and represented just 38% of the donor pool in 2022.
- New Retained donor participation was down -18.7% year-over-year.
- New Retained donors accounted for 14% of the decrease to the total donor pool, despite accounting for just 9% of donors in 2022.
- Repeat Retained declined by -7.4%, but as they represented 40% of the donor population in 2022, they accounted for 24% of the overall decrease.

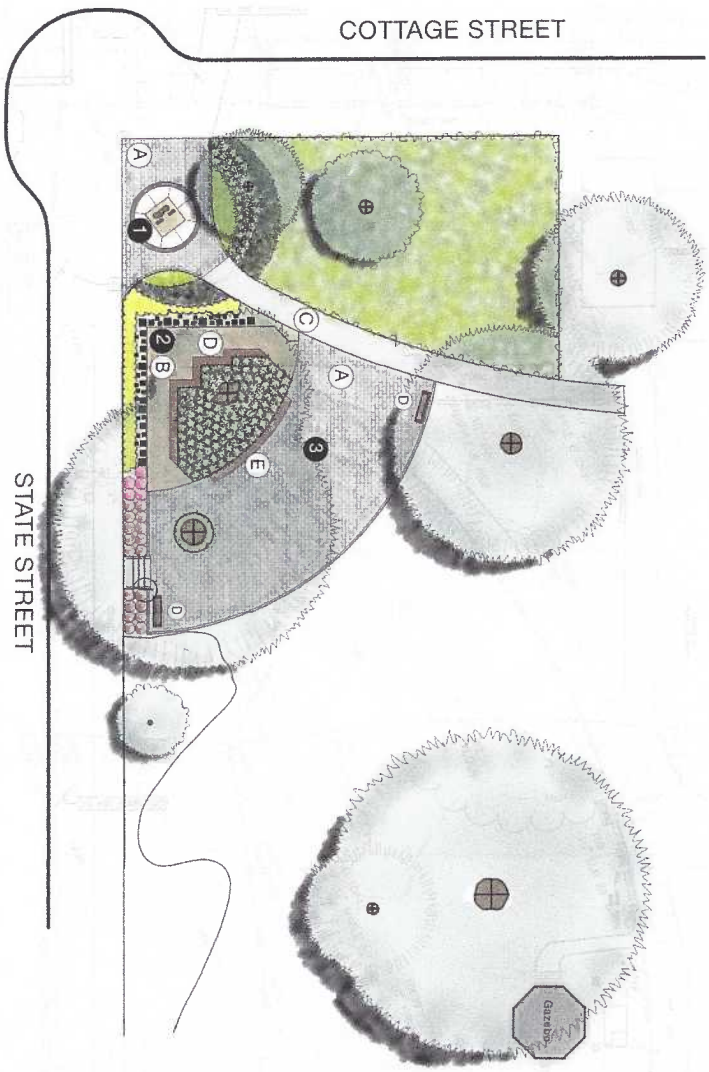


NEW DONORS - never gave to this organization before.

NEW RETAINED DONORS - gave last year to the organization, but never before.

REPEAT RETAINED DONORS - gave last year to the organization, but not for the first time.

RECAPTURED DONORS - did not give last year to the organization, but had given in the past.



LEGEND

Phase 1 Memorial Elements

- 1 Sculpture: "A Soldier's Return"
- 2 Memorial Monument - Engraved Granite Columns
- 3 Meeting & Gathering Plaza

Phase 2 Memorial Elements

- 4 Brothers Benches
- 5 Sculpture: Nurses Station
- 6 Rain Garden
- 7 MIA - POW Station
- 8 Purple Heart State Plaque
- 9 Persian Gulf War Memorial
- 10 Gold Star Families Memorial Plaque

Other Features

- A Accent Paving
- B Ipé Wood Deck
- C Concrete Walkway
- D Bench with Back
- E Curved Bench
- F 8' Tall Lanterns
- G Oregon Basalt Walls with Exhibits
- H Bamboo Screen
- ⊕ Trunks of Existing Trees to Remain



Vietnam War Memorial

Willson Park, Oregon State Capitol Grounds

PHASE 1: MEMORIAL COLUMN WALL CONSTRUCTION PHASE

Mike Abbate, FASLA Landscape Architect

www.abbatedesigns.com

July 2023



The Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds is a Mixture of Art, Nature and Tradition

By: Steve Bates

The design of the Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Grounds is more than a traditional memorial. While the memorial is meant to honor all Vietnam veterans and all who served in the United States Military from 1955-1975, it includes symbolism and visual art.

Because of skyrocketing construction costs, the memorial was divided into two phases. Rather than waiting for full funding, it was determined that a portion of the memorial should be constructed in 2024. Phase 1 is close to becoming a reality. The construction documents are completed and the building permit process will be starting shortly. It is planned that on March 29, 2024, the 50th Vietnam Veterans Day, a ground breaking ceremony will take place.

The location of the memorial will be to the south of the World War II Memorial in Willson Park of the Oregon State Capitol Park. The southwest corner of Willson Park is located near the junction of State and Cottage streets. This area includes many mature trees and plantings. All of the existing trees are included in the design of the memorial to embrace nature as a means to create a memorial that will be inviting and a place of reflection.

Phase 1 includes the following features and elements:

- A column wall of 46 Pennsylvania black granite columns
- A tribute to all military branches that served in Vietnam
- A "Welcome Home" Exhibit
- A list of almost 800 names of Oregonians who died in Vietnam
- A tribute to those who came home and suffered because of their service
- A sculpture entitled "A Soldier's Return" by Libby Carruth
- A gathering area
- A donor recognition exhibit

Unlike the adjacent World War II Memorial, the Vietnam War Memorial will have a column wall. The World War II Memorial has a solid L shaped wall. This symbolizes the solid support of the citizenry for the war effort. The Vietnam War Memorial will have a series of columns to make the L shaped memorial wall; not a solid wall, but a broken wall. This symbolizes the division of the war effort support and the fractured society that resulted.

One of the columns will bear the engraved emblems of the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard; the five military branches that were engaged in the Vietnam War.

At each entrance, there will be a "Welcome Home" column. The engraved exhibit will detail the lack of respect that the Vietnam veterans received when they came home and explain why Vietnam veterans developed this greeting to honor one another.

The memorial columns will list the Oregonians who gave the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. The names will include the military rank title of these heroes. The names will be listed by community/home of record for ease of location. There will be special designations for those Missing In Action and Medal of Honor recipients.

Another column is set aside to honor those who came home and suffered from their physical and invisible wounds that resulted from their service in addition to those who suffered from the affects of chemical exposures.

The sculpture by Libby Carruth of Portland depicts a returning soldier that is apparently saluting the flag, but, his face shows a confused look and his hand is gripping his shirt demonstrating the frustration of the returning Vietnam soldier who was ridiculed for serving his country with dignity and honor.

The gathering area with bench seating will allow various types of events to take place at the memorial.

Finally, a donor recognition exhibit will bear the names of those who donated \$5,000 or more to help finance the project.

This Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be unlike any other. It will be a place of reflection where art, nature and tradition are intertwined.

Additional funding is needed to complete this memorial.

Contributions can be made by credit card at: www.ocvvm.com

Or, by sending a check to:

Vietnam War Memorial Fund

P O Box 1448

Boring, Oregon 97009

About the author:

Steve Bates has resided in Boring for 47 years and is a Life Member of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America and an Honorary Life Member of the Vietnam Veterans of America. He serves as Chair of the Committee on Memorials and Remembrance and President of the Vietnam War Memorial Fund. He can be reached at: vietnamwarmem@aol.com

The following elected officials support the Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds:

OREGON STATE SENATE

Senator David Brock Smith, SD1
Senator Floyd Prozanski, SD4
Senator Dick Anderson, SD5
Senator Cedric Hayden, SD6
Senator James Manning, SD7
Senator Sara Gelser Blouin, SD8
Senator Deb Patterson, SD10
Senator Kim Thatcher, SD11
Senator Aaron Woods, SD13
Senator Janeen Sollman, SD15
Senator Suzanne Weber, SD16
Senator Mark Meek, SD20
Senator Daniel Bonham, SD26
Senator Chris Gorsek, SD25
Senator Tim Knopp, SD27
Senator Dennis Linthicum, SD28
Senator Bill Hansell, SD29
Senator Lynn Findley, SD30

OREGON STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Court Boice, HD1, Representative Virgle Osborne, HD2
Representative Lily Morgan, HD3, Representative Christine Goodwin, HD4
Representative John Lively, HD7, Representative Boomer Wright, HD9
Representative Jamie Cate, HD11, Representative Charlie Conrad, HD12
Representative Shelly Boshart Davis, HD15, Representative Ed Diehl, HD17
Representative Rick Lewis, HD18, Representative Kevin Mannix, HD21
Representative Tracy Cramer, HD22, Representative Anna Scharf, HD23
Representative Lucetta Elmer, HD24, Representative Ben Bowman, HD25
Representative Dacia Grayber, HD28, Representative Susan McLain, HD29
Representative Brian Stout, HD31, Representative Cyrus Javadi, HD32
Representative Maxine Dexter, HD33, Representative Lisa Reynolds, HD34
Representative Jules Walters, HD37, Representative Rob Nosse, HD42
Representative Zach Hudson, HD49, Representative James Hieb, HD51
Representative Jeff Helfrich, HD52, Representative Emerson Levy, HD53
Representative E. Werner Reschke, HD55, Representative Emily McIntire HD56
Representative Greg Smith, HD57, Representative Bobby Levy, HD58,
Representative Mark Owens, HD60 and the Oregon Legislature Veterans Caucus

KIM THATCHER
STATE SENATOR
Senate District 11



JAMES I. MANNING JR.
Senate President Pro Tempore
Senate District 7

OREGON STATE SENATE

January 9, 2024

Co-Chairs, Vice Co-Chairs and Committee Members,

We wish to express our support for the request of \$400,000 for the Vietnam War Memorial Fund for the following reasons:

- While there are memorials to every war including the Civil War in our capital city of Salem, there is no Vietnam War Memorial
- The Vietnam War is second only to World War II for Oregon war casualties
- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, combined with the World War II Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds will memorialize about 75% of Oregon's war dead
- Our Vietnam veterans are aging – the average age is now 76. The oldest are 100+, the youngest are 66
- It is estimated that 55% of Oregon's Vietnam veterans are still living
- We are losing as many as eight Vietnam veterans every day
- As a result, the Vietnam War Memorial must be erected sooner rather than later

The Vietnam War Memorial Fund has announced it is ready to start construction of the first phase of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Capitol Grounds; however they have a \$400,000 deficit.

It is important for this legislative assembly, in this session, to assist with these needed funds so we can honor our constituents, and their families, who served and sacrificed during the tumultuous years of the Vietnam War.

Please allocate the needed \$400,000 to the Vietnam War Memorial Fund.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James I. Manning, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Senator James I Manning, Jr.
Senate President Pro Tempore

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kim Thatcher", written over a horizontal line.

Senator Kim Thatcher
Senate District 11

David Brock Smith

State Senator

District #1

Curry, Coos, & Douglas Counties
503.986.1701



Kathleen Taylor

State Senator

District #21

Milwaukie, Oak Grove, SE & NE Portland
503-986-1721

OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE
900 COURT ST NE SALEM, OREGON 97301

February 13, 2024

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members,

This is to express our support for the request of funding for the needed Vietnam War Memorial. This would be placed on the Capitol grounds and fill the vacancy of a Vietnam War Memorial in the entire city of Salem, our state's capitol. As our brave service members continue to age, it is important that Oregon shows this ultimate respect for our residents' choice that put themselves in harm's way to protect and serve our country. The very least that we could do is to make sure this small symbol of thanks is constructed while those survivors that are still with us as well as the families that sacrificed so much can visit and view it.

This important project, through the War Memorial Fund, is in need of a \$400,000 fill in order to meet budget requirements to begin the construction. We ask for your support and positive vote for this item.

Thank you so much for your sincere consideration,

David Brock Smith

Oregon Senate

District 01

Curry, Coos, & Douglas Counties

"Southwest Oregon's Fish, Farm & Forestry District"

Email: Sen.DavidBrockSmith@OregonLegislature.gov

Website: <http://www.OregonLegislature.gov/SmithD>

Kathleen Taylor

Oregon Senate

District 21

Milwaukie, Oak Grove, SE & NE Portland

Email: Sen.KathleenTaylor@oregonlegislature.gov

Website: <https://www.OregonLegislature.gov/Taylor>



Office of Senator Woods

Senate District 13

(503) 986-1713

900 Court Street NE, S-425 | Salem OR, 97301

Joint Committee on Ways & Means

Co-Chairs, Vice Co-Chairs and Committee Members,

We wish to express our support for the request of \$400,000 for the Vietnam War Memorial Fund for the following reasons:

While there are memorials to every war including the Civil War in our capital city of Salem, there is no Vietnam War Memorial

The Vietnam War is second only to World War II for Oregon war casualties

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, combined with the World War II Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds will memorialize about 75% of Oregon's war dead

Our Vietnam veterans are aging – the average age is now 76. The oldest are 100+, the youngest are 66

It is estimated that 55% of Oregon's Vietnam veterans are still living

We are losing as many as eight Vietnam veterans every day

As a result, the Vietnam War Memorial must be erected sooner rather than later

The Vietnam War Memorial Fund has announced it is ready to start construction of the first phase of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Capitol Grounds. However they have a \$400,000 deficit.

It is important for this legislative assembly, in this session, to assist with these needed funds so we can honor our constituents, and their families, who served and sacrificed during the tumultuous years of the Vietnam War.

Please allocate the needed \$400,000 to the Vietnam War Memorial Fund.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ron Woods".

Hi Steve,

Attached is Senator Linthicum's signed letter.

Best Regards,

~Diane

Diane Linthicum
Chief of Staff – [State Senate District 28](#)

Senator Dennis Linthicum
900 Court Street S-305
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1728

Joint Committee on Ways & Means

Co-Chairs, Vice Co-Chairs and Committee Members,

We wish to express our support for the request of \$400,000 for the Vietnam War Memorial Fund for the following reasons:

- While there are memorials to every war including the Civil War in our capital city of Salem, there is no Vietnam War Memorial
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It is important for this legislative assembly, in this session, to assist with these needed funds so we can honor our constituents, and their families, who served and sacrificed during the tumultuous years of the Vietnam War.

Please allocate the needed \$400,000 to the Vietnam War Memorial Fund.

Sincerely yours,



Cc: **Ways & Means Committee**
Co-Chair Senator Elizabeth Steiner
Co-Chair Representative Tawna Sanchez
Co-Vice Chair Senator Fred Girod
Co-Vice Chair Representative David Gomberg

Joint Committee on Ways & Means

Co-Chairs, Vice Co-Chairs and Committee Members,

With the following being brought to my attention I wish to express my support for the request of \$400,000 for the Vietnam War Memorial Fund for the following reasons:

- While there are memorials to every war including the Civil War in our capital city of Salem, there is no Vietnam War Memorial
- The Vietnam War is second only to World War II for Oregon war casualties
- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, combined with the World War II Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds will memorialize about 75% of Oregon's war dead
- Our Vietnam veterans are aging – the average age is now 76. The oldest are 100+, the youngest are 66
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The Vietnam War Memorial Fund has announced it is ready to start construction of the first phase of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Capitol Grounds. However they have a \$400,000 deficit.

It is important for this legislative assembly, in this session, to assist with these needed funds so we can honor our constituents, and their families, who served and sacrificed during the tumultuous years of the Vietnam War.

Please allocate the needed \$400,000 to the Vietnam War Memorial Fund.

Semper Fidelis,

James Hieb
Representative HD51
Direct: 503-878-1905
Office: 503-986-1451

Cc: **Ways & Means Committee**
Co-Chair Senator Elizabeth Steiner
Co-Chair Representative Tawna Sanchez

**VIRGLE J OSBORNE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 2
DOUGLAS COUNTY**



COMMITTEES:
Member:
Business & Labor
Climate, Energy & Environment
Econ Development & Small Business

**OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE
900 COURT STREET NE
SALEM, OR 97301**

Joint Committee on Ways & Means

Co-Chairs, Vice Co-Chairs and Committee Members,

We wish to express our support for the request of \$400,000 for the Vietnam War Memorial Fund for the following reasons:

- While there are memorials to every war including the Civil War in our capital city of Salem, there is no Vietnam War Memorial
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- As a result, the Vietnam War Memorial must be erected sooner rather than later.

The Vietnam War Memorial Fund has announced it is ready to start construction of the first phase of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Capitol Grounds. However, they have a \$400,000 deficit.

It is important for this legislative assembly, in this session, to assist with these needed funds so we can honor our constituents, and their families, who served and sacrificed during the tumultuous years of the Vietnam War.

Office: 900 Court St NE H-375, Salem, OR 97301 – Phone: (503) 986-1402
Rep.VirgleOsborne@oregonlegislature.gov

**VIRGLE J OSBORNE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 2
DOUGLAS COUNTY**



COMMITTEES:
Member:
Business & Labor
Climate, Energy & Environment
Econ Development & Small Business

**OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE
900 COURT STREET NE
SALEM, OR 97301**

Please allocate the needed \$400,000 to the Vietnam War Memorial Fund.

Sincerely yours,

**Virgle Osborne
State Representative
House District 2**

Cc: Ways & Means Committee
Co-Chair Senator Elizabeth Steiner
Co-Chair Representative Tawna Sanchez
Co-Vice Chair Senator Fred Girod
Co-Vice Chair Representative David Gomberg
Co-Vice Chair Representative Greg Smith
And Committee Members

Office: 900 Court St NE H-375, Salem, OR 97301 – Phone: (503) 986-1402
Rep.VirgleOsborne@oregonlegislature.gov



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Boomer Wright
House District 09

February 13, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC EMAIL

Joint Committee on Ways & Means Committee

Dear Co-Chairs, Vice Co-Chairs and Committee Members,

I support the Vietnam war memorial fund allocation of \$400,000. It is important that Oregonians remember those who served in the Vietnam war who never returned and to remember the sacrifices that these men and women gave for their country.

A Vietnam War Memorial is the only war memorial not represented on the grounds of the Oregon Capital. Vietnam War Memorial Fund are ready to start construction however, they have a deficit of \$400,000.00.

It is important for this legislative assembly, in this session, to assist with these needed funds so we can honor our constituents, and their families, who served and sacrificed during the tumultuous years of the Vietnam War.

Please allocate the needed \$400,000 to the Vietnam War Memorial Fund.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Boomer Wright", is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

Boomer Wright
Member
Oregon House of Representatives

Cc: Ways & Means Committee
Co-Chair Senator Elizabeth Steiner
Co-Chair Representative Tawna Sanchez



From the Office of

OREGON STATE REPRESENTATIVE COURT BOICE

February 12, 2024

The Honorable Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair,
Joint Committee on Ways & Means

The Honorable Fred Girod, Co-Vice Chair
Joint Committee on Ways & Means

Dear Senators' Steiner, Girod and fellow members,

I wish to express my support for the request of \$400,000 for the Vietnam War Memorial Fund for a few of the following reasons:

- While there are memorials to every war including the Civil War in our capital city of Salem, there is no Vietnam War Memorial
- The Vietnam War is second only to World War II for Oregon war casualties
- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, combined with the World War II Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds will memorialize about 75% of Oregon's war dead
- Our Vietnam veterans are aging – the average age is now 76. The oldest are 100+, the youngest are 66
- It is estimated that 55% of Oregon's Vietnam veterans are still living
- We are losing as many as eight Vietnam veterans every day
- As a result, the Vietnam War Memorial must be erected sooner rather than later

The Vietnam War Memorial Fund has announced it is ready to start construction of the first phase of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Capitol Grounds. However they have a \$400,000 deficit.

It is important for this legislative assembly, in this session, to assist with these needed funds so we can honor our constituents, and their families, who served and sacrificed during the tumultuous years of the Vietnam War. Please allocate the needed \$400,000 to the Vietnam War Memorial Fund. Thank you!

COURT BOICE, Oregon State Representative – District 1 - including Curry and parts of Coos - Douglas Counties. Rep.CourtBoice@OregonLegislature.gov Phone (503) 986-1401

Coos, Curry, and Douglas Counties – The beautiful Southwest Corner of Oregon - The Timber Capitol of the World, Greatest Ocean, Most Pristine Rivers, Best Fishing, Finest Golfing, Healthiest Cranberries, Rarest Easter Lilies, and our World Wildlife Safaris – We invite you to visit soon.



E. WERNER RESCHKE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 55

Joint Committee on Ways & Means

Co-Chairs, Vice Co-Chairs and Committee Members,

We wish to express our support for the request of \$400,000 for the Vietnam War Memorial Fund for the following reasons:

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- As a result, the Vietnam War Memorial must be erected sooner rather than later

The Vietnam War Memorial Fund has announced it is ready to start construction of the first phase of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Capitol Grounds. However they have a \$400,000 deficit.

It is important for this legislative assembly, in this session, to assist with these needed funds so we can honor our constituents, and their families, who served and sacrificed during the tumultuous years of the Vietnam War.

Please allocate the needed \$400,000 to the Vietnam War Memorial Fund.

Sincerely,

E. WERNER RESCHKE
State Representative, HD 55
The Crater Lake District