

HR-318 Won't Be Enacted Without Your Support!

By Bill Weber

My fellow KORWARVETS And RAKKASANS, In the military vernacular of the 50s—it is ‘PUSH AND SHOVE’ time if our Memorial is ever going to properly honor our fallen comrades! It is a magnificent work of art! But, what it is not is a Memorial to those of our comrades who fell or were wounded in battle. In the 36 months of that miserable ‘Police Action,’ a average of 1,000 of our comrades were KIA each month and 3,000 were WIA! You won’t find that at our Memorial AND NOT in the history books!

Remembrance. The adjacent pictures define the concept. This Congress has had HR-318 in the ‘hopper’ since January 2013! The KorWarVet Memorial Fund, Inc., which I chair, is the proponent agency for the Bill.

PL 99-572, which authorized the Korean War Memorial, demanded in part, “...to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Korean War, particularly those who were killed in action, are still missing in action, or were held as prisoners of war.” That should have been a major element in the intended theme of the Memorial. Such was denied in negotiations with bureaucratic entities who have approval rights. Why?

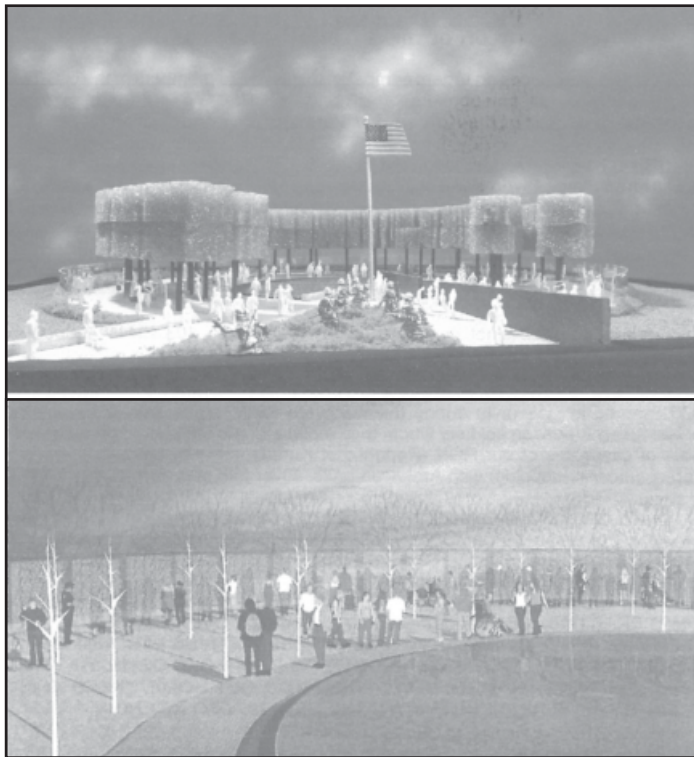
Another ‘Wall on the Mall’ was contra-indicated! Our Memorial is a magnificent work of art. What it is not is a WAR MEMORIAL!

WHY NOW A WALL? On it will be the names of the 36,574 KIA (which includes the MIA and non-battle deaths in-country), the numbers of 103,847 WIA, and the 7,245 POWs, of whom 52% died in captivity! As well, we will list the number of KATUSA, ROK and UN Forces, KIA, MIA, and POW. Why? Because the total numbers tell the truth, i.e., it was the bloodiest war in U.S. history in terms of percentage of casualties of those engaged!

I know that those of you who were in D.C. for the 60th Anniversary of the Cease Fire celebrations know about this proposed addition to our Memorial and why it is needed! And, most of you promised me you’d ensure your Congressman would be pressured by you to become a co-sponsor. But, of the thousands of you who were here, only two more Congressmen have signed on—for a total of 46!! Out of over 540 representatives, less than 10% are on board. Why? they don’t know about the Bill! Why—because you have not ‘rung their bell’!

That means those of you who promised to get your Congressman on board have yet to succeed! Have you tried, or does your Congressman not believe that the average of 1,000 KIA and 3,000 WIA per month of that 36-month miserable “POLICE ACTION” deserves equal recognition of our ‘fallen’ from those of other wars?

We went through the same BS in the 212th Congress with HR-2573! We had hearings in the Sub Committee on National Parks, which reported the Bill favorably to the full Committee of Natural Resources. There, it died due to lack of sufficient co-sponsors to force it to the floor for a vote! Why? Because bureaucrats, most of whom have never heard a round fired in anger, did-



Model (top) and artists rendering of proposed Wall of Remembrance

n't feel it was proper to have ‘another Wall on the Mall’!!!!

Some of you may feel that the ‘Pool of Remembrance’ is adequate to honor our fallen. Wrong! Fewer than 1 out of 200+ visitors to the Memorial even circle the pool! And those who do don’t stop and reflect, because they don’t associate the pool with the casualties of the ‘Police Action.’ Plus, the Park Service drains the pool in the winter months. Thus, the placid water surface which is supposed to engender solemn contemplation ain’t there!

This Wall of Remembrance MUST BECOME A REALITY! And, YOU must make it happen! Your Congressman wants your vote. Tell him/her YOU need his/hers before they get yours! Most of them don’t even know there is an HR-318! And, most will jump at the chance to become a co-sponsor because for them it is a ‘win win’! Who would fault them for wanting to honor the fallen? Surely, it too much to ask of you my fellow KORWARVETS and RAKKASANS! There ‘AIN’T’ much time left! It is ‘PUSH COME TO SHOVE’ time! The KWVA and the RAKKASAN Association memberships have someone in every Congressional District in the USA! Grab your Representatives by the tail and don’t let go until they become co-sponsors of HR-318. Do this for your buddy who came home in a flag-draped coffin or still lies in an unmarked grave in Korea! A copy of the Bill follows. Take it to—or call your Representative’s Home District Office and get him/her on board! DO IT!

IF THEY WON'T — THEY DON'T DESERVE YOUR VOTE — AND TELL THEM SO!

113th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 318

To authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 18, 2013

Mr. HALL (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HANNA, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. KEATING, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. COBLE, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. COLE, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WALL OF REMEMBRANCE.

Section 1 of the Act titled ‘An Act to authorize the erection of a memorial on Federal Land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Korean War’, approved October 25, 1986 (Public Law 99-572), is amended by adding at the end the following:

Such memorial shall include a Wall of Remembrance, which shall be constructed without the use of Federal funds. The American Battle Monuments Commission shall request and consider design recommendations from the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. for the establishment of the Wall of Remembrance. The Wall of Remembrance shall include—

- (1) a list by name of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who were killed in action in the Korean War;
- (2) the number of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, in regards to the Korean War—
 - A) were wounded in action;
 - (B) are listed as missing in action; or
 - (C) were prisoners of war; and
- (3) the number of members of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army, the Republic of Korea Armed Forces, and the other nations of the United Nations Command who, in regards to the Korean War—
 - A) were killed in action;
 - (B) were wounded in action;
 - (C) are listed as missing in action; or
 - (D) were prisoners of war..

Former POW Pushing For POW/MIA Flag Stamp

William (“Bill”) Allen has been working for two years to get the POW/MIA Flag made into a Forever Stamp. But, he says, “It has been difficult to get national exposure.” National veterans organizations such as the KWVA must help to make this happen.

“My congressman told me that the main thing is getting the veterans organizations behind this as a way to encourage the Postmaster General to change his mind,” Allen noted. “I have to get some way to get support for what I am doing, but for some reason the media is not interested.”

Congressman Gus Bilirakis, (R-FL, 12th District), has introduced a bill into Congress, labeled HR2794. Below is an explanation of the process according to Michael Ciminna, Deputy District Director, Veterans’ & Military Affairs Liaison for Bilirakis:

When proposed legislation is filed, it starts at the committee that has jurisdiction over whatever issue area the proposed legislation covers. If it is a VA related proposed bill, it will start at the VA House Committee. Most congressional committees deal with passing laws.

During each two-year session of Congress, literally thousands of bills are proposed, but only a small percentage is considered for passage. A bill that is favored often goes through four steps in committee. First, executive agencies give written comments on the measure; second, the committee holds hearings in which witnesses testify and answer questions; third, the committee tweaks the measure, sometimes with input from non-committee members of Congress; finally, when the language is agreed upon, the measure is sent to the full chamber for debate.

HR 2794 falls under the jurisdiction of the House Committee for Oversight and Government Reform. It will go through the committee process and, if agreed upon, will make its way to the house floor for debate and votes. Again, the legislation process takes some time, especially if there isn’t overwhelming support from community organizations.

Community organizations like the VFW, Rolling Thunder, American Legion, etc., are the driving force behind getting legislation through the system. As I told you before, you and the members of our community organizations are now tasked with contacting Congressional and Senatorial representatives around the nation and asking them to take action on this bill.

Congressman Bilirakis is doing his part by filing the legislation and reaching out to his colleagues for support, but he’s only one man. It is up to all of you to help put the pressure on the rest of Congress to take action.

Political Chuck “Possum” Gurey offered a glimpse into the bill’s current status of the POW/MIA Forever Stamp:

House Resolution 2794 was submitted by Congressman Bilirakis on July 23rd and was assigned to Committee on that same date (House Oversight and Government Reform

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