

# Vietnam War Memorial Fund

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[www.VietnamWarMemorialFund.org](http://www.VietnamWarMemorialFund.org)

“Let Us Honor Our Warriors and Remember the Fallen”

**Testimony before Joint Sub Committee on Capital Construction  
Concerning Bond Financing Request of \$350,000 for this Biennium  
Hearing on HB5030 – Lottery Bond Authorization  
Friday, April 19, 2019 – 12:00 noon – Hearing Room E**

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey and Committee Members,

I am Steve Bates, President of the Vietnam War Memorial Fund, an Oregon Non-Profit Corporation established with the sole purpose to fund the design and construction of a Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds.

Unlike California and Washington, Oregon does not have a Vietnam War Memorial in proximity of its Capitol building. Every war is memorialized in Salem on state property except the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm.

For the past two years, our organization has been developing plans to correct this shortfall.

We have identified that there is a need to complete this project as quickly as possible. When the State of Oregon dedicated the World War II Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds in 2014, 95% of all World War II Veterans were gone.

It is anticipated that at our projected dedication in November 2021, almost 60% of our Vietnam Veterans will be gone. It is projected we are losing our Vietnam Veterans at a rate of eight per day. It is imperative to memorialize the service and sacrifice of all who served during the tumultuous decades of the Vietnam War, sooner rather than later.

As a result, the House Veterans Committee introduced HB2195. HB2195A designates a portion of the Oregon Capital Park to a Vietnam War Memorial. This bill is currently assigned to the Joint Ways & Means Committee.

The Vietnam War Memorial Fund is finalizing proposed plans for the Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds. We have engaged a professional landscape architect firm and the preliminary estimates show the cost of this project will be about 2.5 million dollars.

**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

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Our organization has been researching available grants and other sources of private contributions. If our organization can say that the State of Oregon is providing the requested \$350,000 of Lottery Bond Funds for this biennium, it will enable us to secure additional funding from private foundations and help us meet our 2021 completion goal.

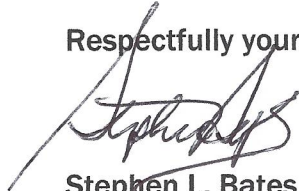
The time is now.

It is important for the State of Oregon to honor our Vietnam Veterans.

Our ask is about 7% of the total project cost.

Please approve our request.

Respectfully yours,



Stephen L. Bates  
President