

Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. fully supports the proposed Vietnam War Memorial to be built on Capitol grounds. This Memorial is inclusive of those who served in Vietnam, those who did not come home, and the families left behind. It includes the stories of soldiers, medics and nurses, and helicopter crews. It will serve to educate public, especially our youth, on the character of the Vietnam Veteran.

As a Gold Star Spouse, we are in particular interested in the area of the Memorial which will be devoted to Gold Star Families. As you may know, Oregon had two families who each lost two sons. The sacrifice of these families will be shown in beautiful and peaceful way at the Memorial.

The story of the nurses in Vietnam has not been told enough. The story is told at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial (WIMSA) located at Arlington, but this will be local. We are grateful that Oregon will have one of the only memorials which portrays the dedication and selflessness of those nurses, and will serve to show how important women were to the efforts.

When my late husband, Capt. Philip Menagh, USMC, returned from Vietnam, he faced much derision and disrespect. Even when we were stationed at Camp Pendleton in the 1970's, I felt the animosity when we would go into town – with the tell-tale buzz cut, it was easy for anyone to spot a Marine.

My husband was killed on active duty in 1984, so he will not see this monument. But it will mean the world to me and to our children to see this monument come to fruition.

Respectfully,
Nancy Menagh
National President of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.