

This special message is published as a service to our brothers in VHPA and is to alert you to the need to contact your Washington DC representatives and tell them to support the Vietnam Helicopter Pilot and Crewmember Memorial Proposal. The VHPA proposal has passed through the Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) review process and on to the Secretary of the Army, Mr. John M. McHugh. Although one would think this is a "no brainer," we discovered there is bureaucratic resistance to placing any additional memorials within ANC, even worthy memorials such as this (go to <http://www.vhpa.org/R2015ANCMemorialUpdate.pdf> for the Memorial Proposal action update).



Calling your representatives' Washington office is the best way to start the process (to find your representatives' contact information, go to <http://www.contactingthecongress.org/>). Explain why you are contacting your representative and ask for the military liaison staff person. That individual will ask additional questions, and you can explain the importance and share an image of the memorial to the left or (it is available at <http://www.vhpa.org/news.htm>); after you've explained the importance, offer the link to the March 26th presentation made to the Arlington National Cemetery Advisory Committee (it is a convincing presentation available at <http://www.vhpa.org/R2015ANCPresentation.ppsx>).

Contacting your representative works! VHPA members contacted Representative Joe Heck (NV), and he sent this letter to Secretary McHugh (go to <http://www.vhpa.org/R2015HeckLetter.pdf>). This non-political, bipartisan venture will likely be the force that motivates the Secretary of the Army to do the right thing and approve the overdue recognition of our lost comrades-in-arms. Please do not delay this important last mission you will ever do for your friends who gave the last full measure of devotion in the Vietnam War. Helicopter crew members comprised 3 percent of those who served in the Vietnam War and 9 percent of that war's KIAs. An additional 3 percent were killed as helicopter passengers so 12 percent of all KIAs were related to helicopters. That is one reason the Vietnam War is called the Helicopter War.

Please contact me with your questions comments, and thank you in advance for your support of this important effort.

Respectfully,

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President

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