

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 26, 2015

Mr. John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
United States Army
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary McHugh:

I am pleased to offer my support to the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and their proposal for a Vietnam Helicopter Pilots and Crewmember Memorial to be placed in Arlington National Cemetery (ANC).

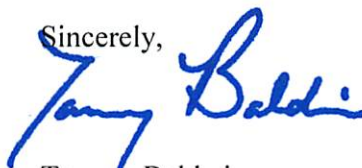
Helicopters, their pilots, and crewmembers played a significant role in the Vietnam War. So much so, that it is colloquially known as "the helicopter war." Between December 1961 and May 1975, nearly 12,000 helicopters were deployed in Vietnam by all branches of the Military, including the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force. Helicopters assisted with combat assault, resupply, medical evacuation, close air support, command and control, rescue, and night illumination efforts. Of the helicopters deployed, more than 5,000 were destroyed and over 4,500 helicopter pilots and crewmembers lost their lives. In fact, helicopter crewmembers account for 9% of all service members killed in action during the Vietnam War. Yet, as of today no national memorial exists that recognizes the shared, common valor of all helicopter pilots and crewmembers who gave their full measure of devotion and their lives in service to their nation in the Vietnam War.

It is my understanding that the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association has met all the criteria necessary for consideration of their proposed memorial to honor fallen helicopter crewmembers from all branches of the Military at Arlington National Cemetery. Additionally, the scope and design of the memorial does not infringe upon the need to reserve space for burials at ANC, as it can be placed in an existing landscaped area or over ground set aside for underground utilities. Furthermore, I believe it is fitting to honor helicopter pilots and crewmembers who served in the Vietnam War with a national memorial of recognition for their bravery and selflessness in paying the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Country.

I am honored to support projects such as this one that recognize the men and women, both past and present, who commit their lives to the defense of the values we hold dear. For this reason, I respectfully request that you give full and fair consideration to the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association's request to establish a National Memorial on the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery.

Thank you for your service and thoughtful consideration of this request. If you have further questions regarding my support for this project, please feel free to contact Todd Crouch in my Madison office. He can be reached at 608-264-5338.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator