

**STATE OF MAINE  
120<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**Final Report  
of the**

**Commission to Recognize Vietnam Veterans  
in the State House Hall of Flags**

**December 2001**

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Mr. Barry McCrum  
Ms. Ramona Naragon  
Mr. Frank Soares**

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# Commission to Recognize Vietnam Veterans in the State House Hall of Flags

## **Final Report to the 120<sup>th</sup> Legislature by The Commission to Recognize Vietnam Veterans in the State House Hall of Flags**

The Commission to Recognize Vietnam Veterans in the State House Hall of Flags, pursuant to Sec. 6 of Resolves 1999, Chapter 113 (see *Appendix A*) as amended by Public Law 2001, Chapter 353 (*Appendix E*), submits this final report to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council. The Commission's five members met in public sessions on 10 separate occasions between September 25, 2000 and October 18, 2001. Attached are summaries (*Appendices B and C*) of the commission's deliberations during the meetings of September 25, 2000 and October 17, 2000. Also attached is an outline of the additional meetings and activities (*Appendix D*).

While Chapter 353 requires that the Commission terminate upon submission of the required reports, the members of the Commission plan to continue their work until they complete their fundraising duties. The Commission was required to complete its duties and submit a final report by November 1, 2000. However, the Commission recognized that renovations to the State House necessitated the removal and temporary storage of most historical items, artwork and plaques displayed in the Hall of Flags and that any plaque or flag recommended by the commission to honor veterans of the Vietnam War could not be placed in the Hall of Flags until renovations are completed in the summer of 2002. As a result, the Commission requested that the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management submit emergency legislation in the First Regular Session of the 120<sup>th</sup> Legislature to retroactively authorize the Commission to continue its work and to require the Commission to issue its final report on or before December 1, 2001. The 120<sup>th</sup> legislature subsequently enacted Public Law 2001, chapter 353 which extends the final reporting date for the Commission to December 1, 2001.

### **Summary of Commission work to date**

The Commission was tasked with developing a design, choosing a site, accepting donations, and making arrangements for a plaque and a flag to be displayed in the State House Hall of Flags.

*Design:* At the September 6, 2001 meeting, the Commission conducted interviews with six artists who were selected from the group that had submitted proposals. The Commission discussed and evaluated the proposals, and ultimately selected the proposal submitted by Mr. Gary Cooper. The Commission requested that Mr. Cooper make certain changes and subsequently approved the final design on October 18, 2001. The plaque will consist of a bronze relief plaque (30" diameter x 1.25" height x 0.1875" thickness) mounted on a circular finished Maine Deer Isle granite (44" diameter x 1.25"). Attached is a copy of the design (*Appendix F*).

After extensive discussions on a design for a flag, the Commission recommended that no flag be placed in the Hall of Flags. This recommendation was based on the fact that no Maine Unit served in Vietnam, and that there are no flags that accurately represent Maine's presence in the Vietnam War.

*Location:* The Commission worked with Mr. Earle Shettleworth, chair of the State House and Capitol Park Commission, to find a suitable location in the State House Hall of Flags for the placement of a plaque honoring Vietnam Veterans. The desired location for the plaque is on the left side of the hallway opening to the State House Hall of Flags that leads to the legislative library.

*Budget/fundraising:* The total budget for the Commission is \$13,945; as of December 1, 2001, the Commission had raised \$4,500. The Commission anticipates that it will be able to raise the remaining \$9,445 within the timeframe needed to complete the project by May, 2002. The Commission has set Memorial Day (May 27, 2002) as the dedication date.

## **Appendix A**

### **Chapter 113**

**H.P. 1765 – L.D. 2471**

**CHAPTER 113**  
**H.P. 1765 - L.D. 2471**

**Resolve, to Recognize Veterans of the Vietnam War in the State  
House Hall of Flags**

**Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That a commission is established to arrange for a plaque and a flag or flags, to be displayed in the Hall of Flags in the State House, to honor the veterans of the Vietnam War from Maine; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists of 5 nonlegislative members: 3 members appointed by the Governor, one member appointed by the President of the Senate and one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. All members must be appointed no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The member appointed by the President of the Senate and the member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives serve as cochairs. When appointment of all members is completed, the chairs shall so notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council and shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission no later than August 18, 2000. The members of the commission serve without compensation or expenses; and be it further

**Sec. 3. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall develop a design, choose a site, accept donations and make arrangements for the plaque and a flag or flags to be displayed in the State House Hall of Flags; and be it further

**Sec. 4. Staffing. Resolved:** That, upon approval from the Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission; and be it further

**Sec. 5. Funding. Resolved:** That the chairs of the commission may seek and accept outside sources of funding. Prompt notice of solicitation and acceptance of funds must be sent to the Legislative Council. All funds accepted must be forwarded to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council and an accounting that includes amount, date received, from whom received, purpose and limitation on use of the funds. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council administers any funds received; and be it further

**Sec. 6. Consultation; reports. Resolved:** That the commission shall consult with the State House and Capitol Park Commission to ensure the appropriateness of the design and location of the new plaque and the selection and placement of the new flag or flags within the State House Hall of Flags. When the commission has agreed upon an appropriate location and design, but not later than October 4, 2000, the commission shall submit its initial report to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council. A final report must be submitted to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council by November 1, 2000. Upon submission of its required reports, the commission terminates; and be it further

**Sec. 7. Future process; recommendations; authorization to report out legislation. Resolved:** That the Maine Historic Preservation Commission shall develop and recommend a more formal and permanent process through which future requests for

## **Appendix B**

### **Summary of September 25, 2000 Meeting**

## Commission to Recognize Vietnam Veterans in the State House Hall of Flags

### Summary of September 25, 2000 Meeting Room 127 State House Augusta, Maine

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*Members Attending:*

**General Earl Adams, co-chair**  
**Mr. Donald Simoneau, co-chair**

**Ms. Ramona Naragon**  
**Mr. Barry McCrum**

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1. General Adams, co-chair, called the meeting to order, noting that the Commission's fifth member, Frank Soares, was unable to attend the meeting because his duties as director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services required him to be in Washington most of the week. (A staff assistant from his office attended the meeting, however, to report to him on the Commission's deliberations.)
2. Following introduction of Commission members, General Adams briefly summarized the Commission's purpose and duties pursuant to Resolves 1999, Chapter 113.
3. General Adams introduced Earle Shettleworth, Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, who also serves as chair of the State House and Capitol Park Commission. Mr. Shettleworth explained that the State House and Capitol Park Commission is an advisory commission that assists the Legislative Council in making decisions about preservation and development of the aesthetic and historical integrity of the State House, including architectural and decorative additions or changes. The Commission to Recognize Vietnam Veterans in the State House Hall of Flags is specifically required to consult with the State House and Capitol Park Commission concerning the appropriateness of the design and location of the new plaque and the flag or flags.

## **Appendix C**

### **Summary of October 17, 2000 Meeting**

# Commission to Recognize Vietnam Veterans in the State House Hall of Flags

## Summary of October 17, 2000 Meeting

10 a.m.

Room 126 State House

Augusta, Maine

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*Members Attending:*

**General Earl Adams, co-chair**  
**Mr. Donald Simoneau, co-chair**

**Ms. Ramona Naragon**  
**Mr. Barry McCrum**  
**Mr. Frank Soares**

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**Staff: Christopher Spruce, Legislative Analyst, OPLA**

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1. Mr. Simoneau, co-chair, called the meeting to order and introduced other members of the Commission.
2. The Commission briefly reviewed a summary of the September 25, 2000 meeting.
3. Staff provided the Commission with copies of forms used by the Maine Arts Commission in soliciting artists to compete in the State's Percent for Art Competition. Staff suggested that these forms could be adapted by the Commission to invite artists to compete for the design of the plaque to honor Vietnam Veterans in the State House Hall of Flags. Staff also provided the Commission with a draft of a proposed press release announcing the competition. After much discussion and several suggestions for changes to the draft, the Commission requested staff to work with Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services staff to revise the draft press release for review by individual Commission members before it is mailed out to veterans' organizations and the news media a few days before Veterans' Day (November 11<sup>th</sup>). The Commission also agreed to review and finalize a draft of the request for proposals (RFP) that will be sent to artists who express an interest in the competition.

## **Appendix D**

### **Outline of Meetings and Activities**

## Commission to Recognize Vietnam Veterans in the State House Hall of Flags

### Outline of Additional Meetings and Activities

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**5/21/2001:** General Earl Adams updated the State House and Capital Park Commission on the Commission's efforts. The group discussed possible locations for the plaque.

**9/6/2001:** The Commission conducted interviews with the six artists who were selected from the group that had submitted proposals.

**9/12/2001:** The Commission discussed and evaluated the proposals for the plaque design.

**9/26/2001:** The Commission selected the proposal submitted by Mr. Gary Cooper and suggested additions and changes to the design.

**10/1/2001:** General Earl Adams, Donald Simoneau and Frank Soares updated the Maine Veterans Coordinating Committee on the Commission's work. They explained the progress and presented a depiction of the plaque.

**10/18/2001:** The Commission approved the final design for the plaque.

**10/26/2001:** General Earl Adams presented information on the Commission's work to the Board of Directors, Maine Veterans Home and requested initial funding from them. The Board presented a check to the Commission for \$2,000.

**11/9/2001:** Fairchild Semi-Conductor pledged \$2500 to the Commission.

4. It was the consensus of Commission members that the competition for the plaque design should be open to all interested artists, although in selecting from among all submissions the Commission could decide to give preference to proposals from artists who are Vietnam veterans. Commission members indicated that they would like to consider a wide-range of ideas for the plaque design and could only accomplish that by having few limitations on who could enter the competition. It was noted that the plaque design ultimately selected by the Commission must receive the approval of the State House and Capitol Park Commission.

5. The Commission review draft legislation to continue the Commission beyond its original termination date of November 1, 2000. The draft resolve would change the final reporting date for the Commission to December 1, 2001 and would make that change retroactive to November 1, 2000. Noting that the draft resolve would be appended to the Commission's report to the Legislative Council that is due on November 1, 2000, staff advised the Commission that the draft resolve could be submitted to the next legislature by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management or by an individual member of the 120<sup>th</sup> Legislature. It was noted that the sponsor of the original legislation, Rep. Richard H. Campbell, would not be a member of the 120<sup>th</sup> Legislature because of term limits. It was the consensus of Commission members to have the resolve submitted by the Department. The legislation includes an emergency clause that will allow it to take effect immediately after being signed by the Governor.

6. The Commission reviewed a draft of the report that it will submit to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Commission members directed staff to make changes to the text of the draft to reflect decisions made earlier in the meeting. Once submitted, the report will fulfill the reporting requirements specified in its enabling legislation.

7. Commission member Frank Soares, who is Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services in the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, offered to attach a web page to the Department's website that will display the plaque designs submitted in the design competition. Soares said the web page would allow the Commission to receive comments on the plaque designs from Internet users across the State and the Nation.

8. Submissions to the design competition will be accepted by the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services on behalf of the Commission. Commission staff will request that a staff member at the Maine Arts Commission help provide technical assistance to the Commission in answer inquiries from artists about the competition.

9. The Commission held a brief discussion about flags that might be considered for display in the State House Hall of Flags in honor of Vietnam War veterans. Commission member Don Simoneau said that although there were no battalion level units exclusively from Maine that served in the Vietnam War, he had been apprised of at least two units that had Maine connections. The first involved two planes from the Brunswick Naval Air Station that were lost in Vietnam; the second was a Naval Reserve unit from Augusta that was sent to Vietnam. Commission member Barry McCrum said that the selection of a flag to honor Vietnam Veterans was "optional" according to the language of the legislation that established the Commission.

Commission member Soares suggested the Commission might want to consider designing a flag that will represent Maine Vietnam veterans' participation in the war.

10. One member of the audience expressed his concerns about the number of restrictions placed on the design of the plaque. He suggested the Commission talk to veterans' groups to get their ideas for the design. Commission co-chair Earl Adams noted that the enabling legislation for the Commission required it to go before the State House and Capitol Park Commission for approval of the design it puts forward. Commission co-chair Simoneau observed that input on the design selection was not an issue at this point in the Commission's deliberations because the Commission had not yet received any design concepts or even solicited them. Once proposals have been submitted, said Commission member McCrum, the Commission will fight for acceptance of the proposal that it thinks is the best.

11. The Commission will hold its next meeting on **Thursday, November 16, 2000 at 10 a.m. in Room 427** (Banking and Insurance Committee Room) of the State House.

## **Appendix E**

### **Extension for Report**

**Sec. 6. Consultation; reports. Resolved:** That the commission shall consult with the State House and Capitol Park Commission to ensure the appropriateness of the design and location of the new plaque and the selection and placement of the new flag or flags within the State House Hall of Flags. When the commission has agreed upon an appropriate location and design, but not later than October 4, 2000, the commission shall submit its initial report to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council. A final report must be submitted to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council by ~~November 1, 2000~~ December 1, 2001. Upon submission of its required reports, the commission terminates; and be it further

**Sec. 7. Retroactivity.** That section of this Act that amends Resolve 1999, chapter 113, section 6 applies retroactively to November 1, 2000.

Effective September 21, 2001, unless otherwise indicated.

**Appendix F**  
**Plaque Design**



**"Vietnam Veterans of Maine Memorial Bronze Plaque"  
PRELIMINARY LINE ILLUSTRATION**

©2001, Gary Cooper, Durham, Maine

**REVISED: October 18, 2001**