

SHORT TITLE: Supporting the Oklahoma Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Project; distribution.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

SENATE

RESOLUTION NO. 38

By: Helton

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution supporting the Oklahoma Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project is designed to honor and preserve the role Oklahomans played, in all branches of the military, during the Vietnam Era as well as to educate and inspire future generations, especially the families of those who served; and

WHEREAS, this project is consistent with the purpose of the Oklahoma Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Inc. and Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., which is ". . . foster, encourage and promote the improvement of the condition of the Vietnam veterans and to eliminate discrimination suffered by Vietnam veterans"; and

WHEREAS, the centerpiece of the proposed project features larger than life-size bronze statues of six American military personnel representing the five branches of the military service and the sixth representing women who served in the American military in Vietnam. Additionally planned are two statues, representing Prisoners of War (POWs) and personnel Missing in Action (MIAs), to be placed in close proximity of the watchfire hearth symbolizing finding their way home; and

WHEREAS, the project plaza comprising the base for the statues will follow a hexagon shape, with each of the five sides being of equal length. A black granite honor wall shall form the back drop for the overall project. The names of those Oklahomans killed in

action will be listed along with appropriate war-related scenes. At the front of the main plaza will be a short black granite wall separating same from the watchfire hearth area. On the face of the wall the history of the Watchfire Ceremony will be inscribed. The firebrick lined black granite hearth will be a hexagon shape. The names of the Oklahomans listed as POWs or MIAs will be listed in this area. At the front of the hearth will be the two statues representing the POWs and MIAs. A third black granite wall will be behind the statues and will have appropriately related scene(s) etched in it to relate the story of those veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate supports the Oklahoma Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Inc. and the Oklahoma Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

46-1-1379

THC