



October 27, 2026

To Relevant Congressional Committees, Executive Branch Officials, and Veteran Community Stakeholders:

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), and the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) along with The Chosin Few issue this joint statement regarding the ongoing national discussions surrounding the proposed United States Triumphal Arch in Washington, D.C.

Our organizations—all non-partisan, congressionally chartered Veterans Service Organizations—do not write to endorse or oppose any specific architectural design or proposal. Rather, we write to urge our fellow veterans, community leaders, and elected officials to approach this opportunity with the unifying spirit intended by federal law, free from political bias or reflexive opposition.

The historical foundation for monumental construction at Memorial Circle sits within the *Arlington Memorial Bridge Act of 1925 (Public Law 68-542)*. Enacted over a century ago, Congress authorized a grand ceremonial gateway connecting the National Mall to Arlington National Cemetery. The core statutory and patriotic purpose of this 1925 mandate was clear: to build a lasting, unifying monument that honors the service and sacrifice of American veterans while symbolically uniting the nation.

This initiative is not about any single president, administration, or political party. It represents a long-standing national objective to celebrate American heritage, sacrifice, and civic unity.

We recognize that proposals of this scale naturally raise diverse opinions regarding design aesthetics, monument height, visual sightlines, and historical preservation:

- **Substantive Design Considerations:** Legitimate questions concerning height, architectural style, visual alignment with existing landmarks, or cost are constructive parts of the capital planning process. If stakeholders have concerns about the look, scale, or specific details of a proposed monument, those topics should be brought directly to the planning table for open, objective discussion.
- **Rejecting Political Bias:** What must be avoided is opposing or supporting a monumental opportunity simply due to political bias or partisan divisions. Denying an effort to honor



veterans and unite the country simply for the sake of opposing a specific office or sponsor does a disservice to the veteran community and the nation as a whole.

Our organizations urge all veterans and veteran advocacy groups to work together constructively. Let us focus the conversation on substance, design, and adherence to proper review processes rather than political division. Honor for our nation's service members should remain a sacred, non-partisan priority that brings Americans together.

Respectfully submitted,

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