



Arizona Historical Advisory Commission

1700 W. Washington Street, Room 200
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Telephone (602) 542-6268 • Fax (602) 256-
7983
Email: AHACinfo@azlibrary.gov

Statutory Institutions:

State Historic Preservation Office - Arizona Historical Society - Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records - Arizona State Museum
Arizona State Parks - Arizona State Office of Tourism - Superintendent of Public Instruction

February 12, 2016

Mr. Kevin DeMenna
Chair, Legislative Governmental Mall Commission
DeMenna & Associates
1825 W. Adams Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Via e-mail: kevin@demenna.com

RE: Arizona Historical Advisory Commission Review of the content of the “Honoring Vietnam Veterans” plaques proposed as an enhancement for the Vietnam Memorial at Wesley Bolin Plaza

Dear Mr. DeMenna:

The Arizona Historical Advisory Commission (AHAC) received materials related to the content of the “Honoring Vietnam Veterans” plaques proposed as an enhancement for the Vietnam Memorial at Wesley Bolin Plaza. AHAC followed our established process and requested and received comments from State Archives and the Arizona Historical Society.

At AHAC’s meeting of Monday, February 8, 2016, a quorum of commissioners considered the reviewers comments and voted unanimously to accept the following points from the reviewers’ content evaluation:

The reviewers noted that when a plaque is erected on state property, there is an expectation that the text will present the facts in a neutral manner. The proposed plaques are supposed to “honor and explain the extraordinary service of those who honorably served in Vietnam” (letter from Colonel Joseph E. Abodeely, December 3, 2015). The majority of the text does not discuss the “extraordinary service” of the military in Vietnam, nor is the text written in a politically neutral manner. The text about the war, protests going on in the United States, and the aftermath is not neutral. Although the chronology of dates is correct, much of the text accompanying it and the Key Historical and Geo-political Facts section is confusing.

We hope that this review assists the Legislative Governmental Mall Commission in its deliberations regarding this proposed memorial. If you have any questions about this recommendation, please contact me at (520) 907-9677 or via e-mail.

Sincerely,

Teresita Majewski, Ph.D., RPA, FSA
Chair, Arizona Historical Advisory Commission
tmajewski@srircm.com

Cc (via e-mail): Robin Hillyard, Senate Research Analyst, Government Committee – rhillyard@azleg.gov
Susan L. Shaffer Nahmias, Ph.D., Vice Chair, Arizona Historical Advisory Commission – a250@cox.net
Joan Clark, State Librarian & Director, Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records Division of the
Secretary of State – jclark@azlibrary.gov
Dr. Ted Hale, Deputy Director, Archives, Records and Arizona Capitol Museum Division of the
Secretary of State – thale@azlibrary.gov
Amy Ledín, Administrative Assistant, Arizona Historical Advisory Commission – aledin@azlibrary.gov
Colonel Joseph E. Abodeely, USA (Ret), President, Arizona Military Museum – Joeabo7@gmail.com