

**Commission to Arrange for a Plaque or Plaques  
and a Flag or Flags to be Displayed in the Hall of  
Flags in the State House to Honor the Maine  
Veterans of World War II and the Korean War**

**Summary of November 12, 2002 Meeting  
Room 126 State House  
Augusta, Maine**

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*Members Attending:*

**Senator Kenneth T. Gagnon, co-chair                      Mr. Steve Hanley**  
**Representative Monica McGlocklin, co-chair      Ms. Lucille Greer**  
**Mr. Ted Robinson (for Edward Davis)**

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*Also present:*

Roland LaPointe, Director, Bureau of Maine Veterans Services  
Kirk Mohney, Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
Donna McNeil, Maine Arts Commission  
General Earle Adams  
Charles Fisher  
Lisa Baldwin, OPLA, Commission Staff

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1. Representative McGlocklin, co-chair, called the meeting to order.

2. Commission staff provided a brief recap of the Commission's previous two meetings and an update on activities since the first meeting. The commission had previously decided to focus on the selection of plaques, rather than flags, for placement in the State House Hall of Flags. After consulting with Earle Shettleworth, chair of the State House and Capitol Park Commission, the commission had also decided that there should be two separate plaques in the State House Hall of Flags to recognize veterans of each war. The Korean War plaque should be located near and similar in design to the Vietnam War Plaque, and the World War II plaque should be located near and similar in design to the World War I plaque.

At the December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2002 meeting, the commission requested that Paul Faria, Public Art Associate with the Maine Arts Commission, serve as a facilitator for the commission to help members determine the process for selecting an artist or artists. The commission had also requested that General Adams, who served as chair for the *Commission to Recognize Vietnam Veterans in the State House Hall of Flags*, consult with the commission as it considers strategies for fundraising.

### 3. **Fundraising.**

- The Commission discussed how much money it would need to raise for the plaques, and what approach would be most effective. The commission recognized Charles Fisher, who previously served as co-chair of the commission, to make suggestions. He volunteered to contact the State's National Honor Society in order to recruit Maine's national honor society students to help raise funds through such activities as bottle drives or car washes. Commission members expressed support for this approach, particularly if it involved an educational component.
- General Adams shared his fundraising experiences with the commission. The primary mechanism for raising money for the Vietnam War plaque was a letter writing campaign to CEOs of Maine businesses. He indicated that this was moderately successful and that it took over a year to raise the \$15,000 needed to cover the costs of creating the plaque.
- The Commission discussed the estimated budget for the plaques. After discussion, the commission determined that the costs could be close to \$50,000 – around \$17,000 for the Korean War plaque and \$35,000 for the World War II plaque.
- The commission debated the merits of pursuing multiple fundraising strategies or limiting its efforts to working with the schools through the National Honor Societies. Senator Gagnon raised the possibility of submitting a bill for a direct appropriation to cover the cost of the plaques. The bill could be a match for funds raised from other sources. Mr. LaPointe noted that next Thursday, the Governor will be hosting the Commanders Call, which may be an opportunity for to discuss ways to get the word out to veterans. The commission decided to explore all of these ideas as fundraising options.

### 4. **Plaque and artist selection.**

- The commission also discussed the materials for the plaques. After discussing several mediums, including granite and bronze, the commission concluded that bronze is the most appropriate material. This is consistent with the materials used for the Vietnam War and World War I plaques.
  - The commission recognized Donna McNeil of the Maine Arts Commission to discuss options for artist selection. She discussed 3 methods: 1) direct artist selection 2) limited selection and 3) general call. For direct selection, the commission could chose to hire the artist that created the Vietnam War plaque, Gary Cooper. According to Ms. McNeil, Mr. Cooper did an excellent, timely job and worked well with that commission. For limited selection, the commission could chose from artists that have been pre-selected by the Maine Arts Commission. The commission requested that Ms. McNeil bring information about several Maine artists who work with bronze to the next meeting. She noted that there only a few artists meeting these criteria. The commission will decide then how to proceed.
5. **Report extension**
    - The commission discussed the need for an extension, given that the reporting deadline was November 1<sup>st</sup>. Senator Gagnon directed staff to research the appropriate means for requesting an extension.
  6. The Commission decided to schedule the next meeting for Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 – State House Room 126.
  7. The meeting was adjourned.