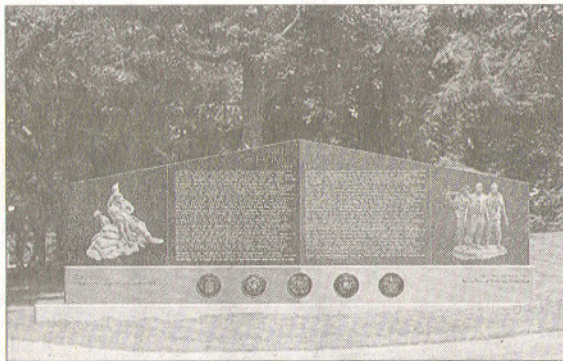


COVENTRY: VIETNAM MEMORIAL BELONGS RIGHT HERE



CONNECTICUT VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

A RENDERING of the proposed Connecticut Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

I wanted to write and thank you for the article in the Hartford Courant ["Little Town Too Small? Supporters Want Statewide Vietnam Memorial On Green," published March 18].

To answer your question, "No, we don't think this town is too small!" My husband and I are strong supporters of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Monument being housed at the Coventry town green. Our daughter, Melissa, then a student at Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School, helped write the biographies of the 612 Connecticut Vietnam veterans [whose stories were collected by middle school students under the direction of teacher and veteran Tom Dzicek in 2001]. What a rewarding experience it was for all of us!

I am the secretary at Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School, and I can't begin to tell you how much I learned and gained personally by being involved in the 612 biography project. I helped edit the book as well as worked to secure volunteers for the Traveling Wall when it was here in May 2002. As my dear friend Dzicek once said to me; "These guys won't let us forget."

The countless stories of families, friends, etc., who have benefited from this project has been astounding. Who knew we would touch so many? We were just a vehicle used to make this happen.

To me and my family, this monument belongs in Coventry. The 612 wall map is here in Coventry. The 612 book is from Coventry. All started from the Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School staff, students and friends such Jean Risley of Coventry.

Risley should be applauded for her efforts in continuing to bring this project to the forefront. She has been a tireless advocate for the Vietnam monument. I admire her strength and fortitude.

ANN LANG, COVENTRY