

# Vietnam vets memorial moving along

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COVENTRY — The Coventry woman seeking a Vietnam veterans memorial similar to the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial has chosen a design commemorating the 612 Connecticut servicemen who lost their lives in the war.

Jean Risley, who approached the town council with the idea about a month ago, said the project is coming along. The council, at the time, endorsed the idea by consensus.

"It's just like I wanted," said Risley of the memorial's design. It will stand about 5 feet 2 inches high and be 80 inches wide featuring two 40-inch panels.

Risley has met with Clark and Riley Memorials of Manchester.

Risley said last month the memorial is for her brother Robert Tillquist, who fought and died in the Vietnam War.

The back side of the memorial on one panel, Risley said, will have an etching of "Three Soldiers" sculpture. The sculpture, done by Frederick Hart, is in Washington D.C. near the national memorial and features three soldiers standing next to each.

She said on the other panel, there would be an etching of the Vietnam Nurses Memorial, which depicts three nurses with a wounded soldier — a sculpture, also located in Washington, designed by Glenna Goodacre.

Risley told the council last month she believed, other than the "612 Memorial" in the shared lobby of Capt. Nathan Hale Mid-

dle School and Coventry High School, the town would have the only memorial in the state.

"It's been a lot of work, but a goal I want to reach," Risley said, who's hoping to fund the memorial entirely from donations.

She said she expects to get a price quote on the memorial in the next couple of weeks and the next step is to meet with Town Manager John Elsesser to discuss a site for the memorial.

Risley said she has raised around \$1,500 and has set up the Connecticut Vietnam Memorial Committee and a treasurer to take care of the donations.

She said if people want to donate, they can make checks payable to CVMC and send them to Paul Jatkowski, treasurer, 91 Upton Drive, Coventry.