

# THE AMERICAN LEGION



Post 136  
410 S E Louis Dr.  
Mulvane, KS 67110

This letter references the proposed South Vietnam Memorial that is being considered for construction within the Wichita Veterans Park.

Paul Stewart Irwin American Legion Post 136 is comprised of 545 veterans of past and present wars. At a recent Post meeting, those 545 unanimously agreed to address this memorial as one. While the park is owned by the City of Wichita, it belongs to the American veteran.

Veteran's Memorial Park is a memorial to the veterans of the American Armed Services, a sacred place dedicated to the memory of those who lived, fought, and died in defense of the United States. Veterans of all races and creeds are memorialized here, together, but only if they served our nation as Americans, in the American uniform, pledging their allegiance and sacred honor to the American flag, and under a life long oath to defend our Constitution and Country.

Respect to, and honor of those American veterans is of first importance. Memorial Park is not a "catch all" for monuments to just any soldier who happened to have worn a uniform of a foreign country, fighting under his own flag to uphold his own constitution or way of life, and who, only by circumstance, found himself allied with the United States.

The sacred space in Veteran's Park set aside to publicly honor American veterans who risked their lives to uphold the American way of life, would be diminished if we were to erect monuments to French freedom fighters of WWII who were fighting for their country and who were valuable allies, or to erect a monument to those Afghani and Iraqi soldiers who are fighting with us now for their own country, or any other ally, however brave and worthy. As a matter of principle, no foreign soldier is entitled to the honor and respect we show our American veterans.

On behalf of the veterans of American Legion Post 136, we respectfully ask the Mayor and City Council to please consider locating this monument to another site outside the boundaries of Veterans Memorial Park.

Rick Babinger-Commander  
American Legion Post 136  
Mulvane, Ks  
*'Birthplace of the Patriot Guard'*