

G. V. Sonny Montgomery Weekly Radio Show

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Audio begins at 00:18

Interviewer: This is Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington. You've been involved with efforts to establish a Korean War Memorial on the Mall in Washington. You were on hand last week when President Bush broke ground for this memorial. What will this mean for Korean War veterans across the country?

Montgomery: The Korean War has been known as kind of the forgotten war. It came several years after World War II. World War II kinda overshadowed the Korean War but it was one tough war. It had number of Americans lost their lives, over 50,000, and fought way away from home and so we're honoring the the Korean veterans, those that are still living and those that have lost their lives. So it will be a memorial built with good design, it will be a across from the Vietnam Memorial, it will be near the Lincoln Monument here in Washington and I'm very proud that I was on a committee, it was a very nice dedication and we're just remembering those Korean veterans who paid big sacrifices, marched off to war, and some of 'em didn't come back from Korea.

Interviewer: This week the House took action to begin the process toward erecting a World War II Memorial. What are the details on this?

Montgomery: On the World War II Memorial and let me mention a little more about the Korean Memorial, a number of Mississippians were affected the 31st Dixie Division was called to active duty during the Korean War and I was a member of that that that division that was on active duty for two years. It did not go overseas however those however some from the division were sent to Korea. Back to the World War II Memorial, we should've actually had that Memorial many years ago this was I guess the biggest war our nation has ever been involved in other than the Civil War. Which we kept no record of how many fought and how many died in the Civil War. But we lost over 400,000 Americans in combat during the World War II, over 16 million Americans were called to active duty to serve in that war. So, what we're trying to do now and I'm a part of it is to have a also a memorial on the mall somewhere near where we will build the, the Korean and where the Vietnam Memorial is. Somewhere down there we will have something to honor the World War II boys and, and, and women who served in in that it was a great war it was the biggest war we've almost participated in and I hope it would the last one. So, we're all looking forward to getting a World War II Memorial and we will not cost the taxpayers any money. And it'll be done by private funds.

Interviewer: In fact, no public funds will be spent on either of these memorials. Isn't that true?

Montgomery: That's correct. As far as the Korean Memorial, the money's already been raised and I say this for South Koreans, one automobile car company gave a million dollars for, for the

Korean War Memorial. It's being supervised by the American Battle Monuments Commission. That's the commission, that's a Federal Government operation, that supervises all the overseas memorials or markers we have where we fought and also, they oversee memorials and statues here in the United States, called the American Battle Monuments Commission. They will help raise funds not only for the Korean Memorial but for World War II Memorial. We've got enough funds in there on the Korean situation, but they'll be no, no public funds. There will be commemorative coins will be printed, minted and they will be sold to bring in some money to do the World War II memorial. I think the veteran's organization will pitch in. I think individuals I was in World War II, served overseas, that many of us will also give small amounts to get this World War II Memorial down here in Washington where we do not have anything that honors all of World War II and we're all looking forward to that.

Interview: Thank you Congressman. This has been Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington furnished as a public service by this station.

Audio ends at 05:00