I am Daniel P. Cortez from Stafford VA, United States Marine Corps Retired. I am a wounded Vietnam veteran that served 20 plus years in the Marine Corps and was decorated for extraordinary heroism.

I am part of the amicus brief being sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Korean War Veterans Association, The Chosen Few, The Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Veterans for America First.

As the chairman of the National Vet Court Alliance, our group and several others were instrumental in passing the Veterans Treatment Court Coordination act of 2019.

We are a nonprofit organization that's dedicated to the prevention of thousands of veterans suicides that occur each year.

Sadly 17 or more veterans on the average commit suicide a day, due to combat and training stresses found in theater and garrison.

Our alliance works with and represent over 500 organizations like ours in the nation that establishes specialized veteran dockets in all U.S. Federal, state and tribal jurisdictions for those veterans that struggle with substance abuse and cognitive impairments, helping them obtain what they need to avoid unnecessary incarceration.

I am a court mentor with the Rappahannock Regional Veterans Docket in Spotsylvania Virginia.

What is clear to not only this veteran and our organization, but the petitioners of this brief is we acknowledge the arch and the present construction plan per the 1925 act permits the construction of this structure on Columbia island exceeding height restrictions that were set by the height of building decks and in my opinion in the opinion of others authorizes the immediate construction upon your approval of the proposed arch.

This structure like others in Washington such as the Lincoln Memorial, The Jefferson Memorial, the Washington War Memorial, World War I, II, Korean, Vietnam and Middle East Memorial to name a few, remain therapeutic and provide pride and demonstrates great patriotism.

Sadly I am aware of disgruntled Vietnam veteran malcontents who needed professional help then and need professional help now, refuse to see the arch as our other veterans see our patriotic monuments.... as a lifesaving a structure that enhance the graves of our war dead at Arlington National Cemetery and provides comfort to the living veteran and gold star families.

A reported recent attack on one of the Marine Corps most revered monuments, a copy of the Washington War Memorial located near my home in Triangle, Virginia, by an illegal alien rebuffed by Marine Corps recruiting officials, demonstrates the need not only to build this structure but employ responsible security measure perhaps in the form of drones to not only protect this structure but that of our other national treasures as well from demented agitators.

We who have given blood for our nation or just served honorably know these structures are not based on megalomania but pride, purpose, prayer and above all patriotism found on both sides of the aisle regardless of who sits in the White House or controls congress.

This arch similar in design such as others around the world honoring war dead and service of the living through prayer and patriotism will save lives and we implore this respected body to pass the requirement to construct this arch as soon as the law allows without delay as testament to the service of all men and women in uniform in further celebration of America’s 250th anniversary.