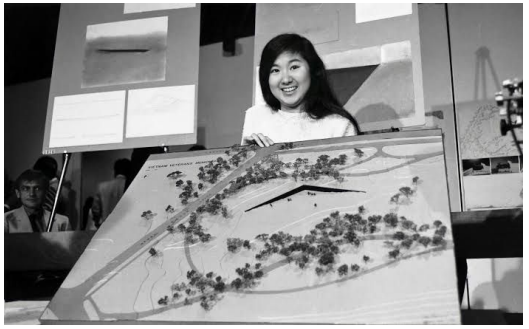
Friday 13th November

In 1979 Jan Scruggs, a wounded Vietnam War veteran began a campaign for a memorial to those killed in the war. He put $2800 of his own money into the campaign which eventually raised $8.4m for the construction of a memorial in Washington D.C.

An open competition was held in 1981 to design the memorial. There were more than 1400 entries and was won by 21-year-old student Maya Lin (top) who used her entry as part of her architecture class at Yale. She got a B+ for the course, but beat her course lecturer who had also entered the competition. The memorial was dedicated on this day in 1982.

Lin's design was controversial, it had no military imagery unlike and unlike traditional war memorials, its polished black granite walls were sunk into the ground rather than raised above it. The 59,271 names were arranged chronologically by date of loss, rather than alphabetically or by military rank, which took more time for relatives to find names of their loved ones. Lin too received personal criticism for being a young Asian-American woman with little design and architectural experience.

- Should war memorials celebrate bravery or help people mourn?
- The polished granite means people can see themselves reflected in the wall - what do you think of this?







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