

# Council Agrees To War Memorial

By **STEPHANIE SUMMERS**  
COURANT STAFF WRITER

COVENTRY — Four years ago Jean Risley worked on the 612 Project with students at Captain Na-

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than Hale Middle School. They created a hefty paperback with biographies of the 612 Connecticut men who died in the Vietnam War a generation before. Risley's brother was one of them.

Now Risley wants to do more.

She asked the town council to provide a site for a Vietnam memorial, and on Monday night they agreed to

give her a letter of intent.

"I support it. It's been a long time since we've come to terms with that war," Councilwoman Liz Woolf said.

Risley would like to have the 612 names, including that of her brother, Robert Tillquist of Bradford, etched into black granite panels to mirror the national memorial in Washington, D.C.

"There's no other way to do it," she said.

At the Monday night meeting, Risley was supported by a silent but large group of American Legion Riders, bikers from the Rockville American Legion Post 14 who are veterans, sons of veterans or still in military service.

"We've gone from five guys with an idea to almost 30 guys," Bob Caine said of the newly organized chapter. The Legion plans to hold a benefit ride to help Risley raise money for the granite and engraving.

After the vote, the 13 bikers filed out of the meeting room in their leathers. The roar of their departure was heard over the council financial report.

The council's favorable response clears the way for fundraising efforts, Risley said. Donors may contact her at [rwrisley@snet.net](mailto:rwrisley@snet.net) or call 860-742-8841.

Contact Stephanie Summers at [ssummers@courant.com](mailto:ssummers@courant.com).