

Two area names will be added to Viet memorial

By ANDREW MIGA

WASHINGTON — Two Massachusetts families will gather Saturday in the shadow of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial as the names of their two fallen loved ones are added to the black granite monument.

The somber ceremony will mark the close of an emotional odyssey for the families of Paul Newman of Billerica and David Pugliesi of Quincy, both of whom were seriously wounded by North Vietnamese snipers in the 1968 Tet offensive.

For the Newman family especially, the gathering will stir pangs of bitterness over bureaucratic insensitivity and the war's dark legacy.

The family's 1986 request to have Paul's name added to the 58,000 others etched on the memorial was originally denied by Army officials.

The Army, after consultation with medical experts, argued that Newman, a state lobbyist for the Paralyzed Veterans of America, did not die as a direct result of his gunshot wound.

Friends and Newman family members, with help from Bay State Sen. John



PAUL NEWMAN

Family request at first denied

Kerry, himself a decorated Vietnam veteran, pressed their case and the Army eventually reversed its stance.

"It's been a long, hard fight for our family," said Joseph Newman, Paul's younger brother. Joseph Newman, an aide to state Auditor Joseph DeNucci, added: "It's very frustrating that we had to fight the bureaucracy to get recognition for someone who gave his life to his country."

Paul, who died in 1986 19 days before his 40th birthday, served in the Army's 101st Airborne Division. Pugliesi, a member of the Army's 199th Infantry, also



DAVID PUGLIESI

'Would have been so proud'

died nearly two decades after suffering combat wounds.

Pugliesi, a paraplegic, died two years ago at the age of 38 after a massive heart attack. He earned the Medal of Valor for saving some fellow soldiers shortly before he was shot, relatives said.

"If David had known his name would be up there on the wall with his buddies, he would have been so proud," said Pugliesi's brother, Robert.

Pugliesi, who used a wheelchair and had use of only one arm, worked at a dental lab and later became part-owner of the Quintree Car Wash in Braintree.