



# COUNTERPARTS

## TUỞNG HỮU ĐÔNG NAM Á

### SITREP

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Volume VI

Issue 1

Spring, 2003

#### GREEN BERET MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER ADDRESSES BRANSON CONVENTION.

##### Col. Roger Donlon speaks to *Counterparts*

By  
Rich Webster

Retired Colonel Roger H C Donlon, the first Medal of Honor winner in Vietnam, addressed those *Counterparts* and their spouses who attended the banquet dinner at the 2003 Convention in Branson, Missouri. Commander Pappy Hicks, a personal friend of Colonel Donlon, introduced the guest speaker and his lovely wife Norma who accompanied him to the convention.



*Pappy Hicks and Guest Speaker Colonel Roger Donlon*

Roger rose to speak wearing the Medal of Honor won in the famous battle of Nam Dong in 1964. "I encouraged him to wear The Medal for this occasion, because there are few who wear the medal better than Roger," said Commander Hicks. "He is one of the most humble, self effacing individuals I have met."

Col. Donlon held a WW I compass in his hand while he delivered his address. "This compass was given to me by my scout troop when I was a youngster," he said. "I still have my Tenderfoot certificate, and the reason I carry it is that it is the only thing I have that has my father's name on

it. It's also a reminder for me to keep my azimuth pointed in the right direction."

A Captain when he won the Medal of Honor, Roger said, "I can't explain to you in words what it meant to command Special Forces troops in Vietnam. I will remember forever those who died on that day in Vietnam to include Australian Warrant Officer Kevin Conroy, the first Australian killed in the war, other members of my team, plus the Montagnards and South Vietnamese with me."

"I've entered another dimension of my life now," he continued, "and my azimuth is not set on soldierly tasks anymore. I was invited to go back to Vietnam in 1993 by the State Department to head a delegation called People to People International.

One of the questions asked by our group at a meeting of ruling party officials was, 'Do you think democracy will ever take place here in Vietnam?'

The communist party member's answer was, "Once you have tasted Coca Cola, you never lose the taste for it."

Donlon doesn't think democracy will occur during this generation in Vietnam because the animosities run too deep between the south and the north, but it will happen.

"I visited the site of my old camp to pay respects to 50 of my lost Vietnamese friends on that fateful day. Their gravesites were abandoned but I located them. The local officials were puzzled as to why I would do such a thing. They never realized our intense feelings for our Vietnamese comrades.

"I bowed my head in silence and joined hands with the others in our group, and then paid homage to my fallen comrades who had paid the ultimate sacrifice. At that moment, it felt like my soul was touched, and from that time on, the reconciliation clock started clicking for me.

On another return trip to Vietnam several years later, I revisited the grave site, and I noticed that it was now in pristine condition. The high Vietnamese official, a former intelligence officer, who had accompanied me on my first visit,

*(Continued on page 3)*



# COUNTERPARTS SITREP

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Volume VI

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## Commander's Corner

The few of us who went to Branson, MO for our Reunion had a great time. The weather was warm, the hotel was Number One and as Veterans we were treated with the most respect I have seen in awhile. We were fed well by the hotel. Some of our members went to a few shows and even performed with the singers on stage, to the enjoyment of us all. There were only nine members, with eight ladies. The entire town continually praises Veterans and men and women in uniform. It is our place, so go there.

Our guest speaker was Colonel Roger H.C. Donlon, US Army, Retired, Special Forces, and the first recipient of the Medal of Honor in the Vietnam War. His A-Team held off a VC attack at the small SF camp at Nam Dong, South Vietnam. I'll admit that I a little biased, since I have known Roger for a number of years, but he carries the Medal better than anyone I know. He gave a talk as if there were hundreds of us present. His wife, Norma, was with him. I knew them both before they got married, so our relationship and friendship goes back many years. He also brought his book *Beyond Nam Dong*, which most everyone bought.

We decided that it was too cold to continue to have our reunions during Tet and by unanimous vote of those present our next Reunion has been changed to sometime in the Spring.

It was also decided that our 2004 reunion be held in the location near where the Montagnards meet every year in North Carolina. This May I will search for an ideal motel for the reunion and contact our Montagnard friends to join them in their celebration. I go every May to party with many of my old friends. Not many know this but I am one of the only outsiders to ever go through a full ceremony of adoption by a Rhade tribe. My name is *Y Among Nie*.

Plans now call for holding our 2005 reunion in Michigan with Jack De Boer as sponsor. There are also large Vietnamese and veterans communities in the area where he lives and he will try to get many of them to join us. Make plans.

Please go to our next reunion of 2004. It will be worth your while to be with old friends, meet new ones and enjoy our mountain brothers of wartime days. The location for the reunion is in Asheboro, just south of Greensboro.

Hang tuff.

... Pappy Hicks

### FROM THE EDITORS...

It has been suggested that the spelling of the Vietnamse word for "counterpart", which is presently shown in our Bylaws and in this newsletter as "TUÔNG", is incorrect. The correct spelling of the word should be "THƯỜNG". Unless there are objections or other corrections from the membership, the new spelling will be introduced beginning with the next issue of SITREP.

had apparently spurred the effort to clean up the small cemetery."

In ending his address, Roger said that we old soldiers need to get out our compasses and take a back azimuth on our lives. "We need to reflect our thoughts on the people who encouraged us to go on in life and to remember in honor our fallen comrades in that war. And we must live our lives honorably now in tribute to them. It was just fate that men like me received the Medal of Honor. There were others just as worthy whose deeds were never recorded. It is a great blessing today to share friendship with old comrades like my good friend Pappy and soldiers like you here tonight."

Roger ended with the following message which is engraved on the inner band of his wedding ring:

*What we are is God's gift to us...*

*What we become is our gift to God.*

He also signed his new book, *Beyond Nam Dong*, for those in attendance. The purchase of the book makes possible a donation to educational scholarships dedicated to fostering reconciliation between the American and Vietnamese people.

Colonel Donlon presented a copy of Gerald Hickey's new book about Vietnam, *A Window on a War*, to the Counterpart's library. An anthropologist who spent 15 years in Vietnam and also the author of *Village in Vietnam*, Hickey was visiting then Captain Donlon on that fateful day of the battle of Nam Dong.

And that's the way the 2003 convention ended.

Although there were only 9 *Counterparts* members in attendance we had a bonding experience like only old soldiers can know. This gathering brought back memories of a time long ago in that faraway place of Vietnam when we were all young soldiers involved in what was to be the biggest challenge in our lives. It was a great and noble thing to



*Counterparts Reunion, Branson, MO  
l to r Owen Kelly and Jack DeBoer with flag, Jim Ellis, Dale Prieser, Byrd Shepherd, Pappy Hicks, Tom Stephens, Bruce Matthews.*

travel to another country and fight for its freedom. That's why we need to keep the *Counterparts* organization alive, to tell our story.

Since we have left the Vietnam War, there has been nothing to compare or equal that experience in our lives. What better encouragement to entice more members to attend future conventions?

### ***From the XO***

*I am sincerely sorry that I missed our Reunion in Branson; the good news it wasn't life threatening and it was not the big C.*

*We still have counterpartstuonghuudongnam · Counterparts Tuong Huu Dong Nam - A for former Advisors! on Yahoo, I again invite you to use the site to the fullest. Feel free to post photos (in good taste please) and messages. The site has numerous possibilities to contact other Advisors who may not be Counterpart members can be to used to locate former team members and counterparts.*

*I know that Reunion 2003 has just slipped into history. And believe this or not 2004 is charging at us full speed. Let's start thinking about 2005 and beyond; at one time there was some interest in the Coral Gables, FL area. I would like to hear the yeas and nays on this idea. Anyone with Reunion ideas please feel free to step forward and share the ideas and maybe get in on the planning of the reunions.*

*Anyone with some spare time, please check in with our overworked officers and see if you could spend a few hours a month and provide some assistance in their tasks. These individuals spend a lot of time on the projects.*

*...Darryl Nelson*

## Minutes of the 2003 *Counterparts* Reunion, January 31, 2003

Commander Pappy Hicks called the meeting to order. Minutes from the last meeting were not available to be read. Commander Hicks also read a note from Daryl Nelson recovering from surgery and expressing his regrets at not being able to attend the meeting.

The 2002 Annual Summary of Receipts and Expenditures for *Counterparts* was reported as follows

Total Annual Receipts: \$1535.00

Total Annual Expenses: \$1558.31

Cash Balance-end of year: \$8739.77

Commander Hicks reported that there now 528 members on the *Counterparts* roster. A discussion was held about problems with membership. Owen Kelly said that he hadn't received his life membership after sending in \$250 over one year ago. The roster needs to be updated and quartermaster Jack DeBoer says he has the latest updates to the roster and he will work on it. Jack also said he will look into developing a more durable plastic membership card that has a more professional and lasting quality to it.

Another suggestion was made that membership checks should be cashed in a timely manner, because there is a cut-off date, after which they are no longer checks and will be returned.

Quartermaster Jack DeBoer said he had been paying a lot of expenses out of his own pocket for the *Counterpart's* market place that supplies us all with ball caps, badges, pins, t-shirts, emblems, challenge coins, and other items. He asked for \$2500 to help pay for expenses-such as pay for artwork and vendors that he has paid out of his own pocket. He would like an account to work with. He has held this position for 8 years. The motion was made, seconded, and approved by those in attendance.

Discussion was held as to how to improve the organization. Commander Hicks said that we need to get more people involved and that he would like to have volunteers as Treasurer, Secretary, and Membership chair who will attend the conventions. This is not a reflection on those now assuming these duties, but the more help, the better, because it would divide up the load. He mentioned that Jim Alkek has carried the load a long time and he would like to get him more help. Rich Webster volunteered to record the minutes and provide secretarial duties at the convention.

Commander Hicks said that he would like to get more Vietnamese and Hmong involved with the organization. One suggestion was to combine future reunions with Vietnamese/Hmong activities or their annual celebrations here in the US. Commander Hicks volunteered to look into a possible May, 2004 convention near Greensboro, NC, where a large Hmong celebration is held annually.

Jack DeBoer volunteered to look into a possible 2005 convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan, his hometown, where there is a large population of Vietnamese.

Any other suggestions as to future convention sites are welcomed from the membership.

Discussion was held to recognize in some manner the volunteer duties of the printer of the SITREP, printed free thanks to former South Vietnamese soldier. One suggestion was to provide free air travel to the next convention.

Owen Kelly donated a small red dragon beautifully designed that was given to Medal of Honor Winner, Roger Donlon, in appreciation of his well-received inspiring speech he gave at the banquet dinner.

Owen Kelly also brought to the group a new 5 X 7 *Counterparts* flag that he had provided material for and that his cousin contributed the artwork from suggestions by *Counterparts'* members Paul Brubaker and Bill Laurie. The color of the flag is Kelly green to signify Vietnam, and there are POW streamers, an expeditionary streamer, and desert storm streamers.

Those counterparts attending the meeting were: Pappy Hicks, Jack DeBoer, Rich Webster, Byrd Shepherd, Owen Kelly, Bruce Matthews, James E. Ellis, Dale E Prieser, Neal Henke, and Tom Stevens.

Colonel Donlon, in addition to autographing a number of copies of his book, "*Beyond Nam Dong*" for *Counterparts'* members, donated a copy of Gerald Hickey's new book, "*Window On A War*" to our organization. Roger gave an inspiring testimony after the evening banquet that was well received by *Counterparts* members and their wives. Roger and his lovely wife Norma were warmly welcomed by those in attendance.

The purchase of Roger's book makes possible a donation to educational scholarships dedicated to fostering reconciliation between the American and Vietnamese people.

.....Rich Webster

## Ky to Return to Vietnam

*Former premier and anti-Communist Nguyen Cao Ky has been invited by the Hanoi government to visit Vietnam. The 73 year old former head of state will lead a group of businessmen to discuss potential business and financial relations with Vietnam.*

*Ky became Premier of the Republic of Vietnam after the 1965 coup that killed President Ngo Dinh Diem and threw the nation into deepening disorder. Ky, an active A-1 pilot had been Vietnam's Air Vice-Marshal.*

*In alliance with MG Nguyen Van Thieu, Ky acted quickly to restore the government's credibility. He established price controls, regained control of rice transport routes, and within two years organized and held the Republic of Vietnam's first free election. Thieu was elected President, and although Ky was Vice President, his role in the government diminished until 1975 when he returned to Saigon in an unsuccessful attempt to organize a last defense of the capital city. On April 29, 1975, he was evacuated to USS Midway.*

*Recently, Ky paused briefly before heading off to a Southern California golf tournament to discuss the problems and potential of his native country with Asia Inc's Correspondent David DeVoss:*

**Asia Inc:** How did you obtain permission to make your first trip back to Vietnam in 23 years?

**Ky:** When Do Muoi was chief of the party he talked about inviting me back, but it was only talk. Now they see the necessity for welcoming me home. I've always said that I'd return home if my trip would help the country. I'll be accompanied by a lot of business associates, many of them potential investors.

**AI:** Do you spend a lot of time in Asia?

**Ky:** I returned to Asia in 1983, mainly to pay a social visit to Ferdinand Marcos. In the late 80s, I lived briefly in Bangkok where my friend Tay Chung-Hai, Singapore's largest purveyor of liquor and tobacco products, had a condominium. Today, I spend about a third of each year in Asia, often staying for as long as two months. I was Prime Minister (of Vietnam) 40 years ago, but I still have friends. I stay with them.

**AI:** In the years following the war, you operated a liquor store in California and a shrimp boat in Louisiana. What type of business are you doing today?

**Ky:** Asian real estate development mostly. Friends of mine who had projects asked me if I could introduce them to people who might help. So I helped with introductions, matching up the right people with the right business. My wife, Le Kim Nicole, knows all the details. I just make the introductions.

**AI:** What's the biggest impediment to foreign investment in Vietnam?

**Ky:** The present government. People good at carrying guns rarely are qualified to build an economy. Everyone is looking to the next generation to provide a Vietnamese Deng Xiaoping. But if this next generation wants a prosperous country it will need outside help, especially from young overseas Vietnamese. For the past 30 years, our people have acquired a lot of knowledge in the outside world. The only way to make Vietnam a dragon is to combine this knowledge. The return of my generation and, more important, the return of young overseas Vietnamese will signal a new chapter.

**AI:** You can't realistically expect American Vietnamese with good jobs and secure lives to return to a developing country where they are considered outsiders?

**Ky:** There are two million Vietnamese in the US alone. The young ones don't think or speak like my generation, but they say they love their country. No, I don't expect a Vietnamese doctor making \$200,000 in the US to quit his job and return to Vietnam. But maybe he could go back for a month every year to work, and occasionally donate to a Vietnamese charity. Anyway, you don't need every

young Vietnamese to go home. Fifteen good entrepreneurs could change the country.

**Al:** Are there any investments in Vietnam today that offer an acceptable rate of return?

**Ky:** Tourism should be a priority. Vietnam is a beautiful country and, unlike Singapore, Hong Kong and Tokyo, it's very cheap. Cost matters, especially to Asian tour groups. There is absolutely no thought given to proper marketing of Vietnam's main attractions. The country has beautiful beaches, but the government thinks a war crimes museum is a tourist attraction. Hanoi should be selling the country to the one million Americans who passed through the country during the war. Most now occupy management positions and they all have families. I bet thousands of men (Americans) would love to take their sons to Vietnam to show them the base where 30 years ago they fought a dirty little war. One other thing: instead of charging tourists for visas, why not give them for free? The government should do everything to make it easy for people to come and spend money.

**Al:** What other areas look promising?

**Ky:** Education is another opportunity. ASEAN universities should be opening campuses in Vietnam.

**Al:** Fifteen years ago, a Vietnamese refugee who advocated reconciliation was subject to ostracism or worse. Do the people of Southern California's "Little Saigon" community support this initiative?

**Ky:** There used to be fanatic anti-communism, but today the anti-Communists are nothing. Nixon talked about America's 'silent majority.' Well, the Vietnamese refugee community has one too. For decades I've told people to forget the war and think about reconciliation. The only thing American Vietnamese want is a prosperous, democratic Vietnam.

**Al:** Can an improving economy hasten democratic reforms?

**Ky:** Absolutely. Just look at Thailand, Taiwan and South Korea. Forty years ago, these countries had a one party system. In Taiwan, if you weren't a Nationalist, you were finished. Neither was there political freedom under Korea's Park Chung Hee or Sarit Thanarat in Thailand. But in each of these countries, dictators used their power to build the country. They improved education and kept food prices low so the middle class wouldn't have to depend on the government for a bowl of rice. A middle class making money no longer depends on the government. Now citizens in these three countries have the power to lead their own lives.

**Al:** Will Vietnam be able to eliminate corruption?

**Ky:** No country is without corruption. In China, Thailand or Taiwan a businessman pays a bribe to get his project approved in two months instead of a year. You also pay in the US and Germany, but there it's called a political contribution. The difference is that in Thailand, when you pay money, you get help from the person you bribed. In Vietnam, they take your money and still obstruct the project. Vietnam has corruption on a massive scale. One estimate is that only 30 percent of the international funds budgeted for development ever reach the intended project. Vietnam's wartime generation knows it's nearing the end and is doing everything possible to fill its pockets.

**Al:** But given Vietnam's low labor costs isn't massive corruption an acceptable cost of doing business?

**Ky:** There is great competition for foreign investment. A lot of the money pouring into Southeast Asia during the 1980s and early 90s bypassed Vietnam because it still had Southerners in reeducation. When you exercise power this way, you can unify the land but not the people. What Southerner would invest in a country that treats him like a second class citizen? And if half a country's population is reluctant to invest, why should a foreigner? Hanoi says it wants reconciliation, but its only selling point now is that it's cheaper than Bangkok or Hong Kong. Unfortunately, the government doesn't use this fact to its advantage. Hanoi thinks that because Bangkok charges \$5 per square foot they can charge

\$4. Unfortunately, Vietnam's commercial space is only worth 50 cents. Hanoi wants to compare, but there is no comparison.

**AI:** What development model should Vietnam follow?

**Ky:** Vietnam has to follow the Chinese model. If I were the leader of Vietnam, I would tell Beijing that I accept being the younger brother. Once a year I would travel to Beijing to give a gift to the emperor. But I would never again agree to be a remote province of China. If China demands that, then I would go to my other big brother, America.

**AI:** First you ran a country, then a liquor store. Now you're finally returning home. What's your most indelible image of refugee life in America?

**Ky:** I went to a Cadillac dealer in Fairfax, Virginia. He recognized me and said I could take a Coupe De Ville out for a test drive. I was driving around, dressed in some old shorts and a T-shirt, when a motorcycle policeman pulled me over because the car had no registration sticker. I looked suspicious and couldn't even remember the name of the street I was living on. 'You working now?' he asked. 'No,' I replied. 'Well, you ever done any kind of work?' I told him I was once the Prime Minister of Vietnam.

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### **SITREP Editorial Policy and Procedures**

#### **Copy:**

- *Articles, letters and other news items are welcomed from all members and other subscribers. Copy should be typed double spaced using standard manuscript fonts like Courier, Cobb, or other "plain vanilla" fonts that can be easily OCR scanned. If you don't have a typewriter legible handwritten copy is OK*
- *Electronic submissions via email or on disc are also welcome. Microsoft Word or Word Perfect is preferred.*
- *Submissions should not exceed "Column length" pieces, i.e.: no longer than 600-1000 words. Members shouldn't hesitate to send short (50-100) word contributions. Remember, brevity is the soul of wit.*
- *Photos or pictures can be submitted by mail or on the internet. For Internet material use one of the standard graphic formats like JPEG, TIFF, MIX, or GIF.*

#### **Editorial Policy:**

- *We will edit for grammar, spelling and clarity. If we feel the need to edit for length or content we'll contact the author whenever possible. We will NOT edit for political or philosophical content unless it's obscene, illegal, or libelous.*
- *SITREP will be published quarterly, in January, April, July, and October. Deadlines for manuscripts and photos are the first of the month before each publication date, but we can be flexible if there's late breaking news.*
- *Send Submissions To:*

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## BOOK REVIEWS

Reviews of Books, new and old, relating to the Southeast Asia experience. Members are encouraged to submit reviews. All reviews will be published as space permits.

**SOG: the Secret Wars of American Commandos in Vietnam** *John L. Plaster, Maj. USA (Ret.)* Onyx Military (Paperback reprint available from Amazon.com)

Maj. Plaster, a three tour SOG veteran has produced a well written book which does a good job in describing the little known facts about this unique multiservice organization. With each page you learn more about the men of MACVSOG and their daring operations which included cross border missions, rescue of downed pilots and sabotage against the NVA.

Maj Plaster has also written and edited **SOG: A Photo History of the Secret Wars**. (Paladin Press). In 485 pages the author covers The history of SOG, Air Arm Support, Ho Chi Minh Trail operations, Hatchet Forces and other operations. Former SOG members will want to have both of Maj Plaster's books in their collection. They are by far, a couple of the best books on the subject I've ever read. They brought back memories of duty and friendships. A must read for the curious and the doubters.

I personally worked for Col. Cavanaugh and Col. Sadler. Col Sadler presented me with my departure Knife and Plaque. Sadler said "Simmons, I know you're a leg but I have been told you have the makings of a good SF soldier". With these words he made me the proudest I ever felt.

...*Old Sarge (Jim Simmons)*

**Autopsy on People's War** *Chalmers Johnson*, Quantam Books (paperback), University of California Press, 1973.

Going through my library the other day I ran across an old copy of this book. Leafing through it offered some fascinating insights into '60s and '70s thinking about Revolutionary Warfare and Counterinsurgency.

The title refers to Lin Piao's famous *Long Live the Victory of People's War* published in 1965, which for a while, became the blueprint for much of the Insurgent warfare of those decades. As the title also suggests, the "People's War" doctrine, which was supposed to bring about communist victories all over the world, was actually DOA. Neither the Soviets nor the Chinese had significant long term success in supporting "People's Wars", and in fact, often found themselves in the position of opposing them. The most well known European and Latin American advocates, like Regis Debray, Franz Fanon, and Che Guevera, failed miserably at their effort. Only the North Vietnamese succeeded in winning a Revolutionary War, and in retrospect it is apparent that the success of Giap and Ho Chi Minh brought about anything but a victory for the "People" of Vietnam.

...*Ken Jacobsen*

**In the Jaws of History**, *Bui Diem with David Chanoff*. Indiana University Press (reprint)

**To Bear any Burden**, *Al Santoli*. Indiana University Press (reprint)

Both of these valuable books have recently been reprinted, partially as a result of efforts by Nobel prize nominee journalist (and *Counterparts* member) Jane Hamilton-Merritt. *In the Jaws of History* recounts the personal experience of Bui Diem, former Republic of Vietnam Ambassador to the US. Ambassador Diem witnessed Ho Chi Minh's pogrom against non-communist Vietnamese nationalists, dealt with US congressmen, and does not hesitate to offer candid observations on corruption, strategic errors and the general subject of relations with the US.

Reporter Al Santoli has assembled one of the most complete and objective oral histories of the war. The book spans the period from early US involvement to the post 1975 era, and includes interviews with veterans, former VC, and US and Southeast Asian civilians. Both of these books can be ordered from the University of Indiana Press, 601 N. Morton St. Bloomington, IN. For more details check Indiana University's website, [www.iupress.indiana.edu](http://www.iupress.indiana.edu) or phone 1 800 842 6796.

...*Bill Laurie*



# **COUNTERPARTS**

## *Village Market*

### **Memorabilia Sales Inventory**

Counterparts <i>THDNA</i> patch	\$6.00 ppd.
7 color embroidered Logogram 3.00" X 4.75" oval	
Counterparts lapel pin	\$12.00 ppd.
Bronze over pewter Logogram, 0.75" X 1.06" oval	
Counterparts challenge coin	\$10.00 ppd.
Bronze Logogram/S E Asia map, 1.50" disc	
Counterparts baseball-style hat	\$15.00 ppd.
direct-embroider Logogram on black, winter, adjustable	
Counterparts coffee mug	\$10.00 ppd.
Black Logogram/S E Asia map on white, 8oz	
Counterparts T-shirt	\$15.00 ppd.
Six color print Logogram on white 50/50, specify size: L., XL, XXL... These are new.	
Counterparts gold bullion blazer patch	\$25.00 ppd.
6 color silver/gold bullion direct-embroider Logogram on black	
Four post military mounting. These are new, while they last	
MACV insignia	
Shoulder sleeve, merrowed edges. (Full color patch, April 1969)	\$3.00 ppd.
Three frameable prints, <i>An Ancient Warrior, Soldier Praying, Soldiers Monument</i>	
All in color, and would look good with your memorabilia	\$10.00 ppd.

**Please send prepaid orders in care of**

**Jack C. De Boer Jr.**

**Counterparts Logistics Officer**

**6865 Pine Bluff Court S. W.**

**Byron Center, Michigan**

**49315-8370**

**(616) 455 0802**

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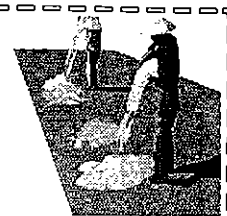
**[Note: the Village Market is closed from I October to I December]**

***Due to increased shipping costs, please add a \$4.00 Shipping charge to your orders***





# BULLETIN BOARD



## ***New Memorial to be dedicated***

A new Vietnam memorial featuring a statue of US and South Vietnamese soldiers will be dedicated in Westminister, California on April 27<sup>th</sup>. This monument is the culmination of a long and arduous effort on the part of Westminister Vietnamese and US veterans. The ceremonies will begin at 10:30AM. This should be a memorable event. *Counterparts/THDNA* members are encouraged to attend. At publication time information is not available on other events planned for the weekend, but visiting Westminister's "Little Saigon" could be a pleasant way to spend a day. For information call **Ho Ngoc Mihn Duc at 714 891 6317 or Nguyen Van Gioi at 562 433 0349.**

## ***Got any weird or funny Vietnam stories?***

*Counterparts/THDNA* member Jim Barker is compiling a collection of "comie-to-bizarre" experiences in Viet Nam. Contributors will be provided full credit or if desired, assured of full confidentiality. Send your story to **Jim Barker, 4941 Dickinson Dr, San Jose, CA, 95111, Tel. 408 226 9938**

## ***New movie in the works***

Vietnam Veteran, author and Former Secretary of the Navy Jim Webb's best seller *Fields of Fire* is being made into a movie, scheduled for on-location filming in Quang Nam. A release date has not been set as of this writing.

## ***Request for Assistance***

*(From the Vietnam Veterans Association Newsletter)*

"I am writing on behalf of my mother to report to your members about my wonderful father, **Nguyen Ngoc Hai**, a patriotic soldier who put his life at risk to help American military forces fight communism in Vietnam. Unfortunately, my father was caught and executed on March 10, 1975, in Quang Due Province."

"My father worked for the **CIDG, 5th US. Special Forces Team, Due Lap Outpost Team 119, 36th Platoon Reconnaissance Unit, Sector II in Dak Sak-Tho Hoang.** He worked under the command of Chief Adviser **LTC Julian, MSG Gregory, CPT Hoang Phung, LT Ho Due Vinh.** Some American friends visited my family's home in Xa Doai Parish. They include **LT Hill, CPT Poor, LT Morrow, LT Heavy, MSG Kool, and MSG Kerr.**"

"My hope is that these and other friends of my father will contact me or my mother, who has tried very hard to recall all of these memories. Contact: Brian Tran, 1900 N. Underwood St., Arlington, VA 22205; 202-535-2653 (work); 703-244-2119 (home); anhlong2004@yahoo.com"

## ***Hanoi calls "We Were Soldiers" star a traitor***

Vietnam's, best-known actor has been branded a "national traitor," threatened with jail and banned from filming for five years for his portrayal of an NVA General in the film "We Were Soldiers," starring Mel Gibson.

The case came to light last week after his Hollywood co-stars launched a publicity campaign for his release, embarrassing Vietnam's rulers at a time when they want foreign investment. In the film, released earlier this year, Dan Doung played the late Gen. Nguyen Huu, the commander of the NVA Division whose troops are massacred after he is outwitted.

The Vietnamese National Film Censorship Council accused Doung of having "lost his honor among the people" and of becoming "an instrument in the hands of forces hostile to the Vietnamese nation."

Doung, once praised by Vietnam's communist Party for his acting abilities, was arrested at his home in Saigon/Ho Chi Minh City. Mel Gibson joined Patrick Swayze and Forrest Whitaker in organizing a campaign to bring pressure on the U.S. State Department to call for Doung's rehabilitation. Gibson said the actor was being unfairly treated.

"We Were Soldiers" showed the courage of the Vietnamese soldiers," Gibson said. "Nothing... he did brought dishonor to the Vietnamese people."

More recently, Doung has applied for resettlement to the US. According to one Vietnamese communist government official "Authorities are considering Dan Doung's application favorably." Vietnam declined, however to comment on when a decision would be made.

## ***"Combat" e-magazine publishes first issue***

*Counterparts* member Paul Brubaker has published the Premiere issue of the new electronic magazine *Combat*, described as "A Literary Expression of Battlefield Touchstones". The mission of *Combat* is to "impart the historical reality and disclose the psychological effects of warfare to the general reader". The magazine may be accessed at <http://www.combatmagazine.ws/>.

## MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

### ***LTC Nguyen Tuong Dien***

LTC Dien was CO of the 10th Regt., 7th ARVN Division. He was killed while leading a reconnaissance element seeking out VC units attacking Ben Tre city during the 1968 TET offensive

### ***SFC Alfred Harry Combs, Jr.***

Advisor to ARVN Airborne. KIA 25 June, 1965 when VC bomb exploded in restaurant.

### ***COL Nguyen The Nha***

KIA January, 1975 while commanding a regiment of the 1st ARVN Infantry Division.

### ***COL Marcus Hansen***

Died December 1991. Col. Hansen was the last Senior Advisor to the ARVN Airborne Division. He retired from the Army in 1980.

### ***SSGT Harold George Bennett***

Advisor to VN Rangers. Captured in late 1964 and later executed while a prisoner

### ***Nguyen Ngoc Hai (rank uncertain)***

Worked with 5th SF Group and CIDG. Captured by VC/NVA in March, 1975 and later executed.

### ***COL Young "Tiger" Phong***

Col. Phong was Binh Thuan Province Chief. His Counterpart was Earl Woods, father of famed golfer Tiger Woods. Woods called Col. Phong "tiger" because he was a fierce fighter. Later, Woods named his son Tiger, hoping if Phong were alive he would be able to find Earl. However, Col. Phong, who had been sent to a "Reeducation Camp" was starved to death in 1975.

### ***CDR John Robert Woodridge***

Died January 11, 2003. CDR Goodrich served as a Naval Advisor 1966-1967.

### ***Calvin B. Emery***

Died May 7, 2002. Senior Advisor, 1st Armored Brigade. Mrs. Emery writes that her husband often mentioned his Counterpart, Col. Hiep.

### ***Harvey Howell***

Died December 10, 2002 in Tucson, Arizona. PSD Vietnam. He worked in MR 1 1971-1972.



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