

Deputy Minister of Defense
Nguyen Thoi Bung

June 27, 1994

Copy

Dear Mr. Minister,

I am writing to you in hopes that in this new spirit of cooperation between our two countries, and with the commitment to resolving this humanitarian issue you pledged during my March visit to Hanoi, you might be willing to personally assist my family in learning my father's fate. Since our meeting, much has transpired in the investigation of his case; however, each step continues to be painstakingly slow.

Like many Vietnamese, my family understands the true costs of war. We understand that those costs reverberate through generations and that while time alone can't heal the human spirit, each of us can do our part, with small acts of courage, grace and kindness, to heal the wounds of war. My grandmother sacrificed her youngest son and her oldest son, my father, to the war between our countries. My grandfather died without knowing the fate of his son, and my grandmother, who will celebrate her 82nd birthday next week, is now in frail health. To her, and to each of the members of my family, having a final answer would mean so much. To have an honorable burial for her son would allow my grandmother the peace of heart and mind all mothers deserve.

Members of the Vietnamese Office for Seeking Missing Persons and the U.S. Joint Task Force for Full Accounting have recently excavated a burial site believed to be my father's. The site had been scavenged early on and was recently disturbed. Given the circumstances, it is probable that a specialized search of Vietnamese archival records would recover information that might lead to more complete, individually identifiable remains. Such a search could determine my father's fate, allowing his mother and our family an end to the pain, anguish and uncertainty we have endured for more than two decades.

It is with hope and humility that I ask your personal attention on this very important matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Colleen C. Shine
Daughter of LTC Anthony C. Shine, USAF
Missing In Action - December 2, 1972

Ann told this to
SEA to hand deliver
yesterday.