



The Lessons of Vietnam and How to Teach It in America

A handful of Vietnam veterans and educators are taking the issue very seriously despite the fact that there is still no national effort to educate students about Vietnam.

"I was at The Wall in 1983, and this man and his son were there. The boy asked, 'What does this mean, this big black wall?' His dad said, 'You know, I don't know. No one ever taught me anything about this war.' I looked over at a woman who had her hand on The Wall, and she looked back at me. There was a message that she said with her eyes: 'You can teach,'" recalls Bob Matthews, a schoolteacher who was drafted in 1966 and sent to Vietnam as a grunt with the First Field Forces at Nha Trang and Pleiku.

Matthews and other members of **The Bridge Back** Consulting Team have turned the message into a promise and a mission, teaching one of the most comprehensive and progressive courses on Vietnam in the country.

This Course of Study is:

- A modular or self contained 18-week semester course.
- Easily adapted to US History, World Civilizations, or English classes.
- Available to local community colleges.
- Very cost effective.
- Currently used in 87 school systems.
- Relies heavily on the skill of critical thinking.

Rick West, in the February 1996 issue of the *Washington, DC Veteran*, writes:

"Vietnam veterans, educators, antiwar protestors, and academics agree that the greater the diversity of the people who are engaged in the process of "teaching Vietnam", the more thoroughly America's students will learn American history. And, the sooner the post-Vietnam generations understand this history, the sooner Americans will come to terms with the Vietnam experience..."

"Vietnam veterans across the country who once played an important role in making history are now playing an even greater role in relating that history and their experience to the next generation. The result is healing for the men and women involved; and for the children, a legacy that will not soon be forgotten."

Contact a member of **The Bridge Back** Consulting Team to schedule a workshop seminar today. Renewal credit is available.



Presented by
The Bridge Back Consulting Team*

Bob Matthews

- Creator of *Lessons of Vietnam* course in Wake County Schools and co-author of present Vietnam curriculum
- Three time presenter of papers at North Carolina State Convention
- Master Teacher (29 years)
- Ten time "Teacher of the Year"
- Published in *USA Today*, VVA, and *National Geographic*
- Vietnam Veteran (1967-68)
- Re-visited Vietnam in 1994, 1995, and 1996
- Coordinator of **The Bridge Back**
- BA and M.Ed., University of Edinboro

Lindy Poling

- Co-author of *Lessons of Vietnam* course
- Co-author of US History course
- 1994 "Outstanding Teacher", Durham VFW
- MAT, Colgate
- BA, William and Mary
- Published in NCVVI Newsletter
- Foreign Student Coordinator
- Recipient of "Teach Our Children Well" Award

For more information about **The Bridge Back** course of study, please complete and return the following:

Name: _____

School District: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone (Home): _____

(Work): _____



The Bridge Back team will provide the following for your school:

1. How to integrate Vietnam into your school and community.
2. How to use the available text and videos in the classroom.
3. How to use the log book for special note taking skills.
4. How to find and prepare your class for first person speakers.
5. How to prepare your students for first person interviews.
6. How to link your students with Vietnam Veterans in your school district.
7. How to interact with the parents of your students.
8. How to use Washington, DC as a key field trip.
9. How to locate and make use of local monuments and days of celebration.

The Bridge Back Consulting Team*:

Bob Matthews
Lindy Poling
Link Page
Esther Dunnegan
Sherri Williamson
Barbra Abernathy
Mike Yelverton
Mike Lynch
Kathy Lucas-Benfield

The Vietnam Workshop presented by Bob and the North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc. is the best I have ever attended.

Lindy Poling is an excellent developer of curriculum with a special gift of bringing history to life. She has a zest for teaching that is contagious.

Esther Dunnegan
Social Studies Specialist
Wake County Schools

Bob Matthews, a Social Studies teacher in North Carolina, has developed one of the best courses of study on Vietnam in the nation.

Jerold Starr, Director
The Center for Social Studies Education
Pittsburgh, PA

The Bridge Back team has the methods, knowledge and first hand experience that schools need today. They will bring to your school system a complete comprehensive package that is unmatched in the country. They are the very best in their field. Don't pass on this one.

The Global Spectrum
Vietnam Travel Specialist
Washington, DC