

W. O. Farber Center
for
Civic Leadership

proudly presents

THE VIETNAM WAR
AND ITS LEGACIES

Monday, October 18, 2004

Slagle Auditorium

The University of South Dakota

Vermillion, South Dakota



the university of south dakota

W. O. FARBER CENTER

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

3:55 p.m.	USD ROTC Posting of the Colors
4:00 p.m.	Introduction of Conference
4:05 p.m.	Ron A. Arnold introduces panel members
4:15 p.m.	Panel Begins
5:25 p.m.	Panel Ends (panelists remain on stage for group photographs)
7:30 p.m.	Major General Patrick H. Brady "Vietnam, The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" Introduction Cadet LTC Chris Mercado

*Sponsored by the W. O. Farber Center for Civic Leadership
and USD Office of Research and Graduate Education*

✓

Panel Discussion with Distinguished Veterans

4:00 P.M. — SLAGLE AUDITORIUM

This afternoon's session will be devoted to a moderated discussion among Vietnam War veterans about how the nation has been affected by the changes that have occurred in the areas of citizenship, leadership, and character during and after the Vietnam War.

MODERATOR



RON A. ARNOLD (USMC) was born on August 23, 1933, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He enlisted in the USMC on January 4, 1952, in Buffalo, New York. After Parris Island he was assigned to Camp Pendleton, CA for combat training in a weapons company. Arnold was assigned to the 22nd Replacement Draft and sailed for Korea on a troopship with Baker Co., 1-1 as a BAR man. His fire team was point for Baker Co. in the night assault on Bunker Hill, August 11, 1952. All four members of the fire team were WIA. After treatment on the hospital ship Haven, then the Yokosuka Naval Hospital, he was assigned to the West Coast Island Defense Element and the island of Sok-to off the coast of North Korea. After rotation home, he was assigned to the 8MAR at Camp Lejeune. He was discharged on January 3, 1955, with the rank of sergeant.

Arnold was awarded the Purple Heart, National Defense Medal, Korean Service Medal with two stars, United Nations Service Medal, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Now semi-retired, Arnold worked as a radio-television newsman and documentary producer from 1959 to August 1995. He and his wife Lorraine still live in Buffalo.

PANELISTS



DR. ROBERT BURNS (USA) was born on August 20, 1942, in Flandreau, South Dakota. He has a wife, Donna, and three children—Cari, Tim and Jon. From 1969–1970 he was Captain of Military Intelligence for the U.S. Army for the Vietnam War. He was awarded a Bronze Star and an Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster. In 1973 Burns earned his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia in Political Science. Since then he has served as an Adjunct Professor in Criminal Justice for USD (1975–1992), as an Instructor-Distinguished Professor of Political Science for SDSU (1970–present), as a

Distinguished Professor and Acting Director for the W. O. Farber Center for Civic Leadership at USD. (January–June, 1998, and then July, 1998–present). He has received many teaching honors including his 2004 College of Arts & Sciences "Teacher of the Year" recognition.

Dr. Burns has held various leadership positions on many major university and college committees including Chairperson of the Academic Senate (1977–1978 and 1995–1996); Administrative Associate, Office of the President (1989); Chairperson of the Committee on Academic Diversity and Pluralism (1994–1998); Chairperson of the General Education Core Curriculum Committee (1996–1997 and fall, 1998); President of the Arts and Science Forum; Chairperson of President's Task Force on Social Responsibility; membership on many university committees including University Promotion and Tenure Committee (six years); College of Arts & Sciences Promotion and Tenure Committee; University Academic Affairs Committee; Athletic, Intramural, and Recreation Committee; and International Affairs Committee.

He also has professional publications focusing on South Dakota politics and government, substantial applied research as a research associate for Governors F. W. Wollmar, and Janklow and as a Humanities Scholar in Residence for the South Dakota Committee on Humanities.



COLONEL JOHN DEACY (USA, ret.) was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1945, to Irish immigrant parents. He was drafted in 1965 and served five years active duty and 24 years Reserves, retiring a Colonel. While in Vietnam (1967–1969), he served with B-36, 3rd Mobile Strike Force Command, Company A, 5th Special Forces Group (abn). His first assignment was as Executive Officer of A-361 and then Reconnaissance Company Commander.

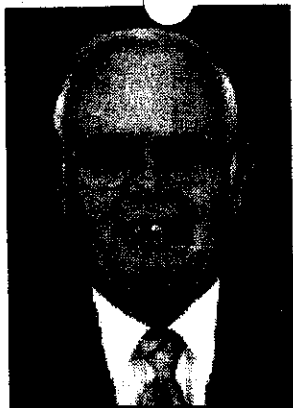
He received the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, CIB, and Air

Medals (three) during two tours of combat duty in the Republic of Vietnam.

John was called back to active duty 1990–1991 in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm as a J-3 Special Forces Staff Officer with US Central Command, Mac Dill AFB, Tampa, Florida.

After leaving the active Army in 1969, he went on to finish college at Saint John's University, Queens, New York, getting a B.S. in Business Management, and joined the US Customs Service, working as a Supervisor Special Agent until retirement in 1999. After retirement he worked as a government contractor for the US Customs Service in Bucharest, Romania, advising in law enforcement matters dealing with trade & transportation.

He currently resides in Fort Myers, Florida, with his wife Nancy and son Thomas and has lived there for the past 19 years. Nancy is a nurse currently on active duty at Womack Army Hospital, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. LTC Nancy Deacy also served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm.



MSgt KERWIN "PEEWEE" DOUTHIT, (USAF, ret.), was born June 23, 1939, at Vetol, South Dakota. He enlisted in the US Air Force, February 1960, retired August 1982. He served in Vietnam with 1st Mobile Communication Group for over two years (1960-1962). Douthit served in 37 countries, 50 states, and 4 possessions in radio aircraft navigation systems, automatic tracking radar, telephone, telegraph, facsimile, and cable systems. He was an instructor on radio, radar, telephone, telegraph, and jungle survival. He developed and presented various types of briefings to third nation diplomats, US

government department heads, state and county officials, and performed protocol duties for third nation diplomats, US government heads, state, city, and local officials.

His education included Senior NCO Academy, Supervisory Management, Social Behavior, Arctic and Jungle Survival, and various electronics courses. He was in charge of oversight on Lajes Air Force Base, Azores, Portugal, and major construction projects. He earned numerous decorations, some of which are: Armed Force Expeditionary Medal (Vietnam), Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Air Force Presidential Unit Citation. He also received a citation from Japan for helping with their Youth Football Organization, a citation from Portugal for Humanitarian Service after the January 1, 1980, earthquake in the Azores, Portugal, and a Citation from the Michigan Doctor's Association for saving a doctor's life by removing her from a burning vehicle.

His second career was being a County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) for 20 years, where assisting veterans, active military, and their dependents with their benefits brought him much personal satisfaction. Douthit was one of four founders of the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers which has shown growth each year. During the time he was CVSO, he was accorded the honor of being named Service Officer of the Year for the State of South Dakota, nominated Citizen of the Year of Hot Springs, South Dakota, Community Service Award for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and had the great honor of being elected as State Commander for the American Legion, Department of South Dakota.



H.F. "SPARKY" GIERKE (USA) is the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. From May 1967 to April 1971, he served as a Captain in Judge Advocate General's Corps, United States Army. During the first two-and-a-half years of his Army service, he performed duties as a legal assistance officer. In 1969, he was selected as a full-time military judge. From December 1969 to December 1970, he served in the Republic of Vietnam, presiding over more than 500 courts-martial. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Air Medal for meritorious service, among other decorations.

Following his Vietnam service, Chief Judge Gierke was assigned as a military judge in Fort Carson, Colorado, where he served until his release from active duty in April of 1971.

Following his service in the Army, Chief Judge Gierke practiced law in McKenzie County, North Dakota. His practice included public service as the McKenzie County State's Attorney and as the City Attorney for Watford City. From 1982 to 1983, he served as the President of the State Bar Association of North Dakota. In 1983, Governor Allen I. Olson appointed him Justice of the North Dakota Supreme Court. The people of North Dakota then elected him to that office in 1984 and re-elected him to a ten-year term in 1986.

In 1983, Chief Judge Gierke became the first Vietnam veteran to serve as the North Dakota Department Commander of the American Legion. From 1985 to 1986, he served as a National Vice Commander of the American Legion for eight states, including North and South Dakota. In 1988, he became the first Vietnam veteran elected to serve as National Commander of the American Legion.

In 1991, President George H. W. Bush appointed him a Judge on the United States Court of Military Appeals, which in 1984 became the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. On October 1, 2004, he became Chief Judge of that court.

Chief Judge Gierke is an adjunct professor of law at the Barry University of Orlando School of Law, the Columbus School of Law of the Catholic University of America, and the George Washington University Law School.

Judge Gierke is married to the former Jeanine Christoffersen, who is the Human Resources Director at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club and Lodge in Orlando, Florida. Their family includes six children and nine grandchildren.



COLONEL JOHN S. HIRSCH (USA, ret.) was born August 23, 1948, in Vermillion, South Dakota. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from USD and a master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island. Colonel Hirsch was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1970 in the regular Army through the ROTC program at USD.

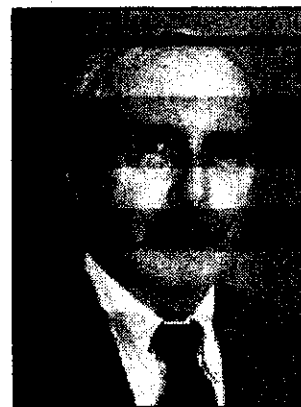
His military schooling includes the transportation officer's basic and advanced course, the Army helicopter and fixed-wing flight school, the Army maintenance and test pilot course, the U.S.

Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Naval War College.

Colonel Hirsch is a master Army aviator who has served a combat tour in Vietnam as well as tours in Europe, Korea, and numerous stateside posts. His assignments have included company command tours with the 24th Infantry Division and 7th Infantry Division. His battalion command tour was with the 9th Infantry Division. He also served as Chief of Staff of the 19th Theater Army Area Command in Taegu, Korea. Prior to his retirement in 1998, Colonel Hirsch served as the Senior Army Advisor to the South Dakota Army National Guard.

Hirsch's decorations include the Legion of Merit (2nd award), Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (5th award), Air Medal (7th award), Army Commendation Medal (2nd award), Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2nd award), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd award), Vietnamese Service Medal, Vietnamese Campaign Medal, the unit citation award for the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and the Master Army Aviator Badge.

He and his wife Cheryl have three sons, CPT John Hirsch USA, CPT Joshua Hirsch, USA, and Jacob. Colonel Hirsch and his family presently reside in Yankton, South Dakota.

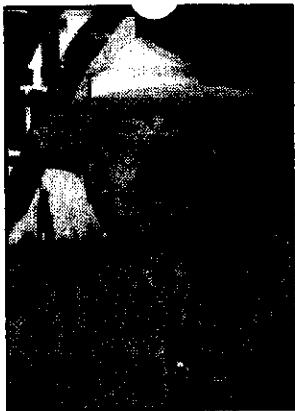


LT. COLONEL WALLACE G. NEWCOMB, (USAF, ret.) was born July 27, 1940, in Easton, Pennsylvania. He has spent nearly his entire life in Painted Post, New York. He graduated from high school in the class of 1958 and then went on to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration. While there he got his commission through the Air Force ROTC program.

He entered the Air Force in Undergraduate Pilot Training at Craig Air Force Base, Alabama. There he flew T-37s and T-33s. He

then went west to Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, for F-105 gunnery school. After Nellis, he went to Germany and then on to Thailand. At Korat he was shot down on August 3, 1967, about 7 am on a Thursday morning. Captain Newcomb was released on March 14, 1973.

Newcomb is now retired from the NYANG as a Lt. Colonel. He and his wife, Janet, reside in South Carolina.



CWO ELDON NYGAARD (USA, ret.) earned a Bachelors degree from the UNO and Juris Doctor degree from Marquette University Law School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Nygaard has served his country as a Warrant Officer helicopter pilot in the active Army, National Guard, and Army Reserves for thirty-three years. In 1998, he changed his area of concentration in the Army Reserves from aviation to the Judge Advocate General's Corp. His current IMA assignment is to the 9th TAACOM at Camp Zama, Japan. Nygaard flew more than 1,000 combat missions in Vietnam

and was awarded numerous awards for heroism, including two awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Purple Heart. A scholar and teacher of American government, business law, and natural resource law, Nygaard has taught at Arizona State University, Colorado University, and USD. Nygaard served as the Director of the Mineral Land Management Degree Program at Colorado University from 1979-1981. Nygaard consults in such diverse areas as Indian Gaming Management and government relations for the wine industry. His service on several boards include the American Vintners Association (AVA) in Washington, DC. He is licensed before the U.S. Supreme Court, Eastern and Western District Courts for the State of Wisconsin, and the Court of Veterans before the Court of Veterans Appeals in Washington, DC.

In 1995, Nygaard drafted the South Dakota Farm Winery Bill which became law on July 1, 1996. A few days later, Eldon and Sherry Nygaard were issued the first winery license in the State of South Dakota. Their winery, Valiant Vineyards, bottles eight different wines for commercial sale in South Dakota.



DR. JOHN USERA (USMC) was born in Cleveland, Ohio, spent his childhood years in New Orleans and his teenage years in New York City. He is the eldest of ten children. He came to South Dakota in 1962 and married Bernadette Borszich from Mission, South Dakota, in 1969. He has three daughters and eight grandchildren. Two daughters and four of the grandchildren reside in South Dakota, in Spearfish and Sturgis.

Upon completing high school, Usera started college in New York City. As a junior at St. John's University he volunteered to come to South Dakota to teach mathematics and natural sciences on the Pine Ridge Reservation at Red Cloud Indian School. A one-year commitment turned into three years. At the end of his third of teaching, he was alerted to the fact that he would be drafted into the military service.

Many of his friends had joined the Marine Corp and spoke highly of the service. Therefore, Usera joined the Corp in 1965 as a resident of South Dakota from Buffalo Gap. Upon completing his basic training in San Diego and advanced training in Camp Pendleton, he was sent to school at the U.S. Naval Aviation Training in Memphis and then Ariel Navigation School at Marine Corp Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point, North Carolina. In October of 1966 he was transferred to the First Marine Air Wing in MCAS Fatima, Okinawa, and the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade in DaNang, Vietnam.

Usera flew C-130's in Vietnam for 13 months providing troop transportation, medical evacuation, supplies, and fuel to the Marines in northern South Vietnam. He flew over 1,200 missions and received eight U.S. Naval Air Medals for flying under hostile fire and battle conditions. He was involved in the Battles of Khe Sahn, Quang Tri, and Chu Lai before the Tet Offensive. Upon completion of his overseas tour of duty, he was stationed at Ariel Navigation School in MCAS Cherry Point as an instructor until 1969. He was then transferred to the 58th Rifle Company in Billings, Montana, to serve as a Marine Reservist until 1971.

With the help of the GI Bill and a National Science Foundation Fellowship he has completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and Mathematics and a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from Black Hills State University. He then completed a Master of Natural Sciences in Mathematics and Master of Arts in Chemistry from the University of South Dakota. He received a Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry from Kansas State University and is a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemists (FAIC).

He has spent eleven years teaching mathematics, physical science, chemistry and physics in the middle and high school in Pine ridge, Rockyford, and Tyndall. He taught chemistry and mathematics for thirteen years in Community Colleges located in Kansas and eleven years in universities located in South Dakota, Kansas, and Texas. He served as Dean of Instructional Services for Labette Community College (Kansas), Dean of the College of Education at Black Hills State University (Spearfish), and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Lamar University (Texas).

In 1997, Dr. Usera was hired as the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Chiesman Foundation for Democracy in Rapid City. Under his direction the Foundation is responsible for promoting civic education, engaging citizens in the deliberation of public policy, and providing evidence and research to substantiate the effectiveness of social, governmental, and educational programming in achieving their mission and goals. The Foundation houses Kids Voting South Dakota, Project Citizen, the South Dakota Youth Congress, South Dakota Public Policy Institute, Center for Civic Participation and Leadership, South Dakota Issues Forums, and the Institute for Educational Leadership & Evaluation.

Among his many duties, he is currently an evaluation and research consultant for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, South Dakota Department of Education, South Dakota Department of Social Services, and many other nongovernmental social service and education organizations.

Dr. Usera is a leader in community and statewide service organizations. His leadership skills and dedication have led others to serve as chair or other offices for the Technology for Rural Enhancement of Communities, South Dakota Colleges & Schools of Teacher Education, Catholic Social Services Board, Youth Serving Organization Alliance, South Dakota Coalition for Children, Kettering Foundation's Committee on Civic Education, Phi Delta Kappa International, and American Evaluation Association.



LTC EMANUEL WILLIAMS (U.S. Army, ret.) was born and raised in San Francisco, California. Upon graduating from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1953, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the US Army. Following his completion of the Basic Infantry Officers Course at Ft. Benning, Georgia, he served in a variety of infantry assignments with the 7th Division in Korea, the 1st Division at Ft. Riley, Kansas, and the 24th Division in Germany. Upon returning to the United States, he completed the Infantry Officers Career Course, Basic Airborne Course, and Special

Forces Officers Course. For the next two years, he served with the 7th Special Forces Group at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, to include a six-month tour in Vietnam with a special forces detachment. Subsequently, he completed the Thai language course and served in Thailand as a regimental advisor. Upon returning to the United States, he served at Headquarters 5th Army at Ft. Sheridan, attended the Command and General staff College, and returned to Vietnam as a training center advisor. During the next ten years, his assignments included Chief, G3 Training Division, Headquarters III Corps, Deputy Community Commander, Bamberg Military Community, and Chief, Installation Monitor Branch, DCPER, Headquarters Forces Command.

He retired in 1981 with the rank of lieutenant colonel. Among his awards are the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, and Army Commendation Medal. Thereupon he entered the Candler School of Theology where he earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1984. Following clinical training as a chaplain in 1987, he served as a staff chaplain at Georgia Baptist Medical Center, Atlanta, Georgia. In 1988 he was ordained by the General Council of the Assemblies of God as a minister, and in 1991 was certified as a Board Certified Chaplain by the Association of Professional Chaplains. In 2002, he resigned his position at the hospital and was appointed to a newly created position of Healthcare Chaplaincy Representative for the Chaplaincy Department of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. He is married to Thelma Louise Williams and has three adult children and four grandchildren.

✓

"Vietnam—The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly"
Major General Patrick H. Brady, (USA, ret.)

7:30 P.M. — SLAGLE AUDITORIUM



General Brady is currently the Chairman of the Board of the Citizens Flag Alliance, a coalition of more than 140 civic, social, veteran, religious, and fraternal organizations representing some 20 million Americans determined to return to the people the right to protect Old Glory. Brady also serves on the Board of Regents at Seattle University, works for a homeless shelter in Seattle and for the Partners Program, an effort to bring our youth and veterans together in the VA medical system. He is a former president of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and holds a Bachelors degree in Psychology from Seattle University and an MBA from Notre Dame. Brady was nominated by President Bush to serve on the American Battle Monuments Commission.

General Brady spent over 34 years in the service of his country, with duty stations all over the world. He was in Berlin, Germany, during the building of the Wall, served in the Dominican Republic during the conflict there, in Korea on the Armistice Commission, and two years in Vietnam.

He is identified in The Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War and other books as the top helicopter pilot in Vietnam. Brady developed tactical and foul weather flying techniques never before executed in combat, techniques that allowed him to rescue wounded, day and night, in weather that grounded all other aircraft.

Using these techniques, Brady earned the Medal of Honor for a series of missions that began before sunrise and ended after dark. He was repeatedly warned that the missions were impossible due to the weather, the enemy situation, and mines. On three different missions and six tasks, Brady extracted patients from areas where other aircraft failed (in one case seven previous attempts had failed) or were shot down. On two different occasions, his aircraft

was hit by automatic weapons fire. On a third occasion, his aircraft was severely damaged by a mine, which also wounded two crew members. Brady's aircraft were so severely damaged that he used three different aircraft to complete the missions and, at the end of the day, the aircraft he flew had over 400 holes in them. During this day, Brady evacuated a total of 51 severely injured patients, many of whom would have died without expeditious medical evacuation. In two tours in Vietnam, Brady flew over 2000 combat missions and evacuated over 5000 friendly as well as enemy wounded.

Brady held a wide variety of important command and staff positions including the Chief of Public Affairs for the Army, Secretary to the United Nations Military Armistice Commission in Korea, Inspector General I Corps, Fort Lewis, and over eight years of duty with our citizen soldiers - the Reserve Components.

Brady is one of two Army veterans of Vietnam to hold both the Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross, our nation's second highest award. He also has been awarded two Distinguished Service Medals; the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit; six Distinguished Flying Crosses; two Bronze Stars, one for valor; the Purple Heart; 53 Air Medals, one for valor; and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm and Silver Star. General Brady is a Master Army Aviator and a member of both the Army Aviation and Dustoff Halls of Fame.

General Brady and his wife Nancy have six children: Shaun, Casey, Kelly, Terry, Shannon and Meghan