

Special
Commemorative
Program

Brothers IN ARMS

The dedication of the Lao, Hmong
and American Veterans Memorial

July 15, 2006
Sheboygan, Wisconsin

The Sheboygan Press

Inside



The schedule of events for the July 15 dedication ceremony

Page 3



It was a long fight to get the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial built

Page 4



The Secret War

English and Hmong language versions of the story of the Secret War waged by the United States and her allies in Laos from 1961 to 1975, and the story of how the Hmong came to the U.S. as refugees

Pages 6-12



Biographies of the men who are the speakers at the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial dedication

Pages 13-15

The names of the U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers, Air Force servicemen, Air America pilots and crew and Continental Air Service Inc. aircrews killed or missing in the Secret War

Pages 18-20



Profiles of the men featured in The Sheboygan Press "Brothers in Arms" series which tells the story of the Secret War and the men who fought it

Pages 22-41



The major contributors, businesses/organizations and the volunteers who made the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial possible

Pages 43-48



On the cover

Steve Schofield, left, retired Army Reserve major, was one of the driving forces behind the memorial; Col. Blong Thao was one of the highest ranking officers in the Special Guerilla Units that fought the Secret War

Cover photo by Sam Castro

Supporters of the Brothers in Arms Series



Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial Dedication

Saturday, July 15, 2006
Deland Park, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, USA

MEMORIAL PROGRAM

Noon

**Airplanes Flyover
Parade**

T-28 pilots, Coordinators: Paul Walter & Bob Curry
VVA and SGU Color guard
Motorcade by VVA-324 Milwaukee
Youth & SGU families

12:30 p.m.

**Presentation and Posting of Colors
U.S. National Anthem
Invocation**

VVA & SGU Color guards
Nou Lee
Deacon Michael Burg

Cultural Show

Hmong Cultural Dance

**Introduction: Guests of honor
Welcome remarks
Welcome City of Sheboygan**

MC: Xia Vue Yang and Nou Xiong
LHAVM Chairman — Dr. Ray Hernandez
Mayor Juan Perez — Proclamation

**Cultural show
Remarks**

Young Qeej Performers
Hmong USA Army – MSG Shua P. Yang
Hmong SGU Army – Colonel Blong Thao

1 p.m.

Welcome State of Wisconsin

Governor James Doyle – Proclamation
U.S. Congressman Mark Green, Wisconsin 8th District
U.S. Congressman Tom Petri, Wisconsin 6th District
State Representative Terry Van Akkeren
Friends of Hmong SGU — Rev. Lucian Bouchard

Cultural show

Hmong Cultural Dance

**Dedication Message
Appreciation and Recognition
Closing remarks**

Colonel Bill Lair, CIA, Ret., Father of the SGU
HMAA President — Dr. John Yang
Dedication Chairman Jay Xiong

1:30 p.m.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies

West Gate 1: SGU veterans and families
Special Forces and U.S. Army
North Gate 2: Mayors and City officials
East Gate 3: Governor, Congressmen and State Officials
South Gate 4: Citizens and Community- HMAA

**Unveiling the Memorial
Wreath presentation**

SGU Veterans & Color Guards
VVA Fallen Soldiers
Moment of Silence
Military Salute
Post MIA stand, Taps, VVA Rifle Squad
Retrieve Color

2-6 p.m.

**Entertainment Continues
POW Certificate Awards**

Hmong Dancers, Singers, Young Qeej Performers

TODAY'S PERFORMERS

Dancers: Nkauj Hmoobg Nplog, Tiffany Yang, Pa Chia Yang, Wendy Lee, Mindy Lee, Yer Xiong, Roni Xiong, Nkauj Cua
Laim Txias: Tiffany Yang, Pachia Yang, Roni Yang, Wendy Lee, Mindy Lee
Nkauj Hmoob Puav Pheej: Bao Yang, Kalia Yang, Pa Zao

Yang, Linda Lee
Paj Daus Dawb Dancers: Naly Yang, Papour Yang, Emily Yang, Mai Chue Yang, Mai Gao Yang, Pa Yeng Yang
Nkauj Hmoob Ywj Pheej: Myshua Lee, Nizong Lee, Myly Lee, Nkau Ger Moua, Chia Yang
Nkauj Hmoob Kawm Txuj: Galyoua Yang, Payeng Yang,

Kalia Yang
Twin Girls: Doris C. Lee, Elena C. Lee, Talee Vue, Ai Vue, Hnou Vue
Singers: Pagnia Xiong, Youa Yang
Qeej performers: Dang Lee, Xeng Xiong, Paul Lor, La Yang



Brothers in ARMS

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Look for more online at:
www.sheboygan-press.com/brothers

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The Sheboygan Press would like to thank Vue Yang, Steve Schofield and Karl and Sherri Byrand for their contributions and assistance in the production of this program.



Former University of Wisconsin-Sheboygan Dean Ray Hernandez helped design the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial at Deland Park. This artist's rendering was painted by Ruben Vega.

It was a long fight

Unique memorial the result of tireless work by many

The dedication of the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial at Deland Park on Sheboygan's lakefront is the successful culmination of an arduous, six-year effort by community leaders who worked tirelessly to raise the money, locate a suitable location and get the memorial built.

The \$140,000 memorial honors all veterans, including those Lao and Hmong soldiers who fought the communists and assisted U.S. troops in Southeast Asia as part of the Secret War.

"Thinking back to when it was just an idea and a dream and now seeing it become a reality is pretty exciting for me, and I know it's pretty exciting for the Hmong community and our community in general," Sheboygan Mayor Juan Perez said.

Mired in city politics for a long period, the journey to build the memorial took many twists and turns. The Sheboygan Common Council turned down a downtown location at Fountain Park in 2001, leaving the project in limbo.

Ray Hernandez, former dean of the University of Wisconsin-Sheboygan and the chief designer of the 44-foot circular monument, then took on the task of continuing the effort to build the memorial, by chairing the fund drive, moving beyond Fountain Park and leading the

search for another site.

"It was a long fight, it was controversial, there were some hard feelings among council members," Hernandez said. "My approach was to be as non-confrontational as possible."

Eventually, Deland Park was selected for the memorial — a place Hernandez said is highly visible, offers accessibility and close-by parking to attract visitors. The council voted to put the memorial at the park in October 2002.

"I'm very pleased and grateful to all the council members," Hernandez said.

Hernandez said he is "very excited" the project, crafted from black granite, is complete. The names of hundreds of veterans are carved into the black granite, along with the story of the Secret War.

"It's going to be a beautiful thing ... now I'm speaking from the standpoint of an artist," Hernandez said.

The Sheboygan memorial will be a unique monument honoring those who fought on behalf of the United States in the Secret War.

"That speaks well of Sheboygan's commitment to respect for diversity and acknowledging the tremendous help that the Hmong people gave to our armed forces in our time of need," Perez said.

Limited Time Special Offer! Limited Availability!

Pre-order Your Brothers In ARMS DVD Today!

More than 30 years ago in the jungles of Southeast Asia, thousands of men lost their lives fighting for the United States in what is known today as the Secret War.

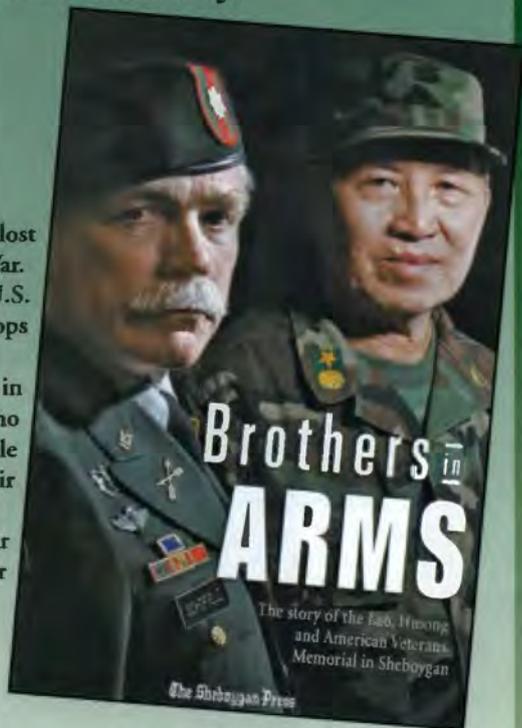
Tens of thousands of Lao and Hmong soldiers, trained by the CIA and U.S. Special Forces, battled the North Vietnamese army in Laos to help U.S. troops fighting in South Vietnam.

While the Vietnam War made headlines and led the nightly news programs in living rooms across this country for years, the Hmong and Laotian soldiers who fought in the Secret War have lived in obscurity for decades. These quiet, humble men have become a part of communities across this state, but seldom have their stories of heroism and bravery been told.

Through the "Brothers in Arms" series and DVD, the story of the Secret War and the men who fought it — and the memorial being built in their honor — will be told.

The DVD will include:

- Personal interviews with veterans of the Secret War (English subtitles)
- A brief documentary looking at the behind-the-scenes work and the story of the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial in Sheboygan
- Highlights of the official memorial dedication ceremony at Deland Park
- Photo slide-shows with historic and present-day images
- Interviews with the artists and architects behind the one-of-a-kind memorial



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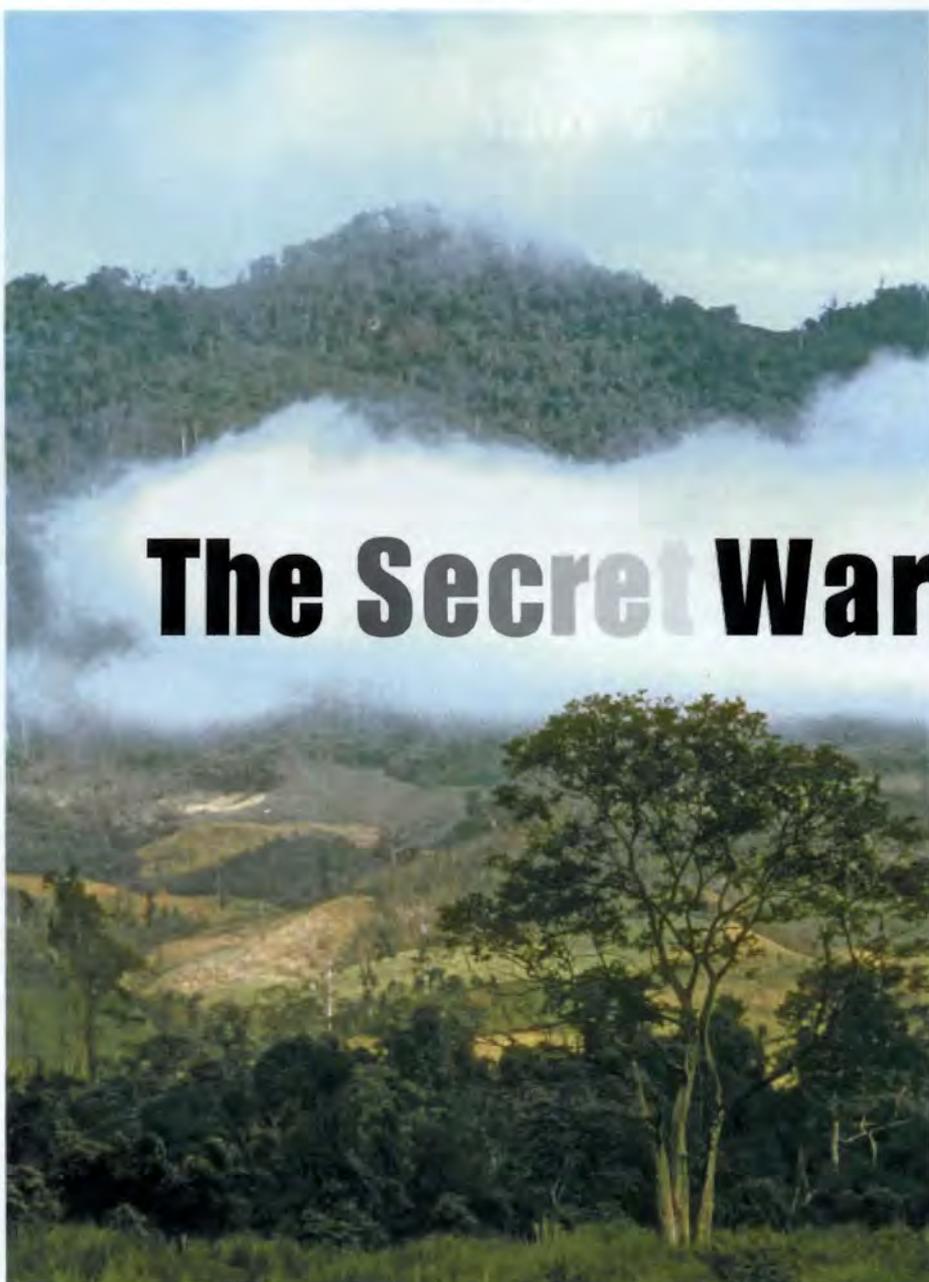
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The Sheboygan Press

 Anticipated DVD release is 9/01/06



Steve Schofield photo

Memorial sheds light on sacrifices of our allies

Written by Karl Byrand, Sherri Byrand and Steve Schofield

This memorial stands here not to glorify war, but to clarify what happened because of a Secret War waged by the United States and her allies in Laos from 1961 to 1975.

Its secrecy has prevented Americans from appreciating the service and sacrifices of the warriors and those who supported them.

In Arlington National Cemetery a plaque reads, "In memory of the Hmong and Lao combat veterans and their American advisors who served freedom's cause in Southeast Asia. Their patriotic valor and loyalty in the defense of liberty and democracy will never be forgotten."

But sadly, their valor and loyalty are being forgotten, as their story has never been adequately told.

Thus, this memorial stands – in a community deeply and directly affected by the war's aftermath – to tell how Americans and non-Americans worked together as allies to keep U.S. soldiers from dying in South Vietnam.

This memorial stands here as a tribute to them and to shed light on truth kept too long in the dark.

U.S. soldiers in Vietnam benefited directly from the service of Americans, Hmong and Lao in Laos. During the Vietnam War, Lao and Hmong Special Guerilla Units (SGUs) and

their American advisors engaged enemy forces occupying Laos. Therefore, these SGUs thwarted an enemy that would have otherwise been available to fight on South Vietnam's battlefields. They also disrupted supply lines set up by communist forces in Laos so those supplies could not be used against U.S. forces.

The SGUs assisted the U.S. air war by racing against enemy forces through jungles and over mountains to rescue dozens of downed American pilots, who then returned to duty – and eventually home.

The Hmong also guarded a top-secret radar installation needed for U.S. Air Force bombing campaigns against North Vietnam, thereby protecting hundreds of American air crews.

A Hmong air force provided close air support for ground troops. Fearless young men flew low and slow against well-armed communist forces. They inflicted terrible damage while suffering horrific casualties from enemy fire. They flew under the motto, "Fly till you die," and most did die in the line of duty.

Former CIA Directory W.E. Colby said the SGUs' "heroism and effectiveness ... held the growing North Vietnamese forces to approximately the same battle lines (for 10 years). And significantly for Americans, the 70,000 North Vietnamese engaged in Laos were not available to the forces fighting Americans ... in South Vietnam."

To understand how Lao and Hmong sacrifices saved U.S. soldiers, it's necessary to examine what led to the U.S. Secret War.

Communist victories in 1954 sparked French withdrawal from Indochina, including Laos, and led to Vietnam being partitioned into a democratic South and communist North. Laos was supposed to remain neutral, but conflicting government factions created another reality. The North Vietnamese communists gained a foothold in eastern Laos.

The U.S. government sought to maintain the illusion of Laotian neutrality, while countering the growing communist influence in the region. Major General Vang Pao, Colonel William Lair and Brigadier General Harry C. Aderholt were influential at every stage in organizing Lao and Hmong resistance.

In 1961, at the request of the Royal Lao government, the U.S. government directed the CIA to train, equip and direct indigenous groups to fight the North Vietnamese and local Pathet Lao communists in Laos. The U.S. Army Special Forces and the CIA-led Thai Police Aerial Re-supply Unit (PARU) trained Hmong and other hill people to take the fight to the communists.

The first SGUs received their military training in Thailand in 1961. Since the U.S. involvement in the war in Laos was classified as "secret," the SGUs were also known as the "U.S. Secret Army," with the Hmong serving the most effective role under CIA leadership.

The alliance proved indispensable as the conflict in South Vietnam escalated to all-out war and the U.S. deployed sol-

diers there to fight the North Vietnamese. Because the latter ferried weapons through Laos and kept thousands of troops there, the U.S. government recognized the North Vietnamese control in Laos was endangering U.S. soldiers in South Vietnam. However, the United States did not want to formally expand the war by deploying troops in Laos. Instead, it grew more and more reliant on the valor and the loyalty of its Hmong and Lao allies.

Some 35,000 to 40,000 Lao and Hmong soldiers were killed in their attempt to defend U.S. interests and their own freedom.

The Lao and Hmong bore the brunt of the fighting in Laos. The true losses, however, cannot be measured by body counts, especially when considering that the war left one of every five Hmong men and boys dead.

Many boys, some barely as tall as their rifles, went into battle – often with little training. In the later years of the war, as older soldiers were killed off, these untrained boys valiantly faced hardened North Vietnamese Army troops. Very few survived.

"Because the Hmong and Lao hill people spilled their blood, they protected uncountable numbers of Americans. Tens of thousands of Hmong were killed among a total population of only 250,000. And sadly, the U.S. government has done little to educate Americans about their tremendous sacrifice ..." — *An American veteran of the U.S. Secret War*

The U.S. Secret War cost the lives primarily of Hmong and Lao hill people, but more than 700 Americans also died in combat there.

Most were U.S. military air crewmen and Army Special Forces. The latter were particularly at risk when serving missions with the Studies and Observations Group, a top-secret program. Small teams of Army Special Forces, working with indigenous troops, gathered intelligence in enemy-occupied eastern Laos to identify targets for bombing and then evaluate the damage. They also intercepted enemy communications. Their casualty rate was every high in proportion to their small numbers.

Through substantial air support, the U.S. Secret War in Laos effectively pitted a small force of guerrilla fighters against a well-trained and well-supplied North Vietnamese army. This air support, vital for moving troops and material throughout the rugged countryside in all kinds of weather, was carried out by the civilian air crews of Air America, Continental Air Services, Bird Air, Arizona Air and other carriers. Their casualty rates were also very high. Although they died supporting U.S. troops fighting in South Vietnam, these civilians are not honored on the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The death toll, tragedy, and heroics extended far beyond the soldiers on the battlefield.

Violent clashes with communist troops drove most of the civilian Hmong population from the mountains they had long



Steve Schofield photo

CONTINUED FROM 7

called home. The refugees suddenly found themselves dependent on the CIA and the U.S. Agency for International Development for air drops of food, shelter and medical supplies. That dependence was particularly trying for them, as they were self-reliant, hard-working people. With their farmlands under enemy control and all able-bodied males fighting, they sacrificed and contributed much to the struggle to win back their way of life.

Despite U.S. assistance, Western diseases in the refugee camps decimated the women and children. One measles outbreak killed hundreds of children. Malaria took a horrific toll. The infant mortality rate reached 70 percent. Many other women and children were killed by enemy rocket and ground attacks. They endured sorrow on a scale the vast majority of Americans have never had to face.

Hmong and Lao hill girls historically had very limited access to education, so it was a first when they trained as nurses. They showed tremendous heroism and courage.

Encouraged by U.S. promises, the Hmong and Lao hill people fought hard to stay free from communist rule, but their struggle grew infinitely harder when the United States broke its promises and abandoned Laos in 1975.

Then, the communist Pathet Lao and their North Vietnamese allies killed thousands of Hmong and Laotian hill people outright and placed thousands more in forced labor camps. They bombed and gassed those trying to escape.

A former USAID official said, "We left the hill people of Laos to genocide. The Hmong were especially targeted for their fierce loyalty to America. Many more thousands of men, women and children were hunted down and exterminated."

Finding sanctuary meant journeying through the jungles on foot and evading communist troops to reach refugee camps in Thailand established by the United Nations. The final barrier for most was crossing the wide Mekong River under the cover of night, often under gunfire. The swift currents drowned many.

Because the Secret War has been kept clandestine, there was little knowledge of, let alone sympathy for, their situation. Their sacrifice was kept secret, their heroics unheralded.

The Hmong in the refugee camps did their best to cope with overcrowding and limited rations while facing an uncertain future. Through their traditional needlework, or *paj ntaub*, they were able to help support themselves and preserve their history, using art to tell their stories of forced migration.

Winning the struggle for mere survival, the Hmong still had to contend with so many sorrows, including the loss of their way of life.

Those who had worked for the U.S. government were accepted for emigration to the United States. Various secular and religious voluntary organizations, working with the U.S. government, facilitated their migration. For many, the hope endured that they would one day return to Laos. As time passed, with

the Laotian government still threatening persecution of the Hmong people, they came to call the United States their nation.

Many different agencies helped bring the Hmong to Sheboygan, including the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, the Catholic Immigration and Refugee Services, Episcopal Migration Ministries and Father Steven Mills of Grace Episcopal Church. On April 24, 1976, the first Hmong family became Sheboyganites through the sponsorship of local pastor Don Leonard.

By 2000, subsequent migrations would establish Sheboygan as having the 14th largest Hmong population in the nation. Their quest for home fulfilled, these families speak of extreme gratitude for the chance of life and liberty.

In coming to the United States, the Hmong traveled half the world and essentially a hundred years through time, into a society with completely unfamiliar traditions and technology. Before the war, they had farmed on a rugged landscape, carving out not just an existence, but a rich culture in a region that demanded a highly mobile way of life.

New to America, the Hmong faced balancing their culture with that of the U.S. They have maintained their close clan and family ties for economic and social support. Their New Year celebration allows a chance to hear traditional musical instruments such as the *qeej* and play *pov pob*, a courtship game with ball tossing.

The Hmong Summer Festival offers such traditions as playing *tuj lub*, a

game with tops.

While respecting their heritage and fearing they might lose it, they nonetheless resolved to make the most of their new lives. Because of severe deprivations brought on by the Secret War, they had much to surmount.

"There has never been any immigrant group arriving on these shores that has suffered as much as the Hmong have suffered as a result of their loyalty to the U.S. government." — a USAID official who worked in Laos

Sheboygan's flat, lakeside terrain and cold, humid winters stood in sharp contrast to the tropical mountains the Hmong knew as home.

Here, however, they saw opportunity, despite disadvantages caused by decades of limited access to education, even the basics of reading and writing. In addition, the Hmong language is not in the Indo-European language family and thus extremely different from English. Literacy and language issues created special obstacles they strove to overcome.

Given that American history shows that all immigrant groups take at least two generations to assimilate, the Hmong have made remarkable progress. This comes as no surprise to the Americans who served in Laos, who knew them as honest and undaunted by physical labor.

Within 30 years of the arrival of the first Hmong immigrants — in just one generation — the vast majority of U.S. Hmong adults had already become tax-paying citizens, with a healthy share working as professionals.

Despite the tragic events that led to their migration, the Hmong have richly added to the wonderfully diverse tapestry of cultures and people that form the strength of this nation.



Steve Schöffel photo



Steve Schofield photo

Npluav Rog Zais Npog

Vaj Loog Zeb Nthuav Qhia Txog Cov Txiaj Ntsim Ntawm Peb Cov Phooj Ywg Tub Rog

(Cov txhais: Yaj Cib, Dr. Yaj Daus, Paj V. Yat, Vwj X. Yaj)

Lub Vaj loog Zeb sawv nres nroos no tsis yog tsa los hawm qhuas tsov rog, yog qhia qhov tseeb txog ib npluav rog zais npog uas As mes liv kas thiab nws tsoom phooj ywg nyob teb chaws Los Tsuas tau koom tes ua thaum xyoo 1961-1975.

Npluav rog zais npog no tau ua kom pej xeeb As mes liv kas tsis paub txog cov txiaj ntsim ntawm cov tub rog thiab cov neeg uas tau koom tes txhawb lawv.

Nyob rau lub tuam roob toj ntxas "Arlington National Cemetery", muaj ib daim lag zeb sau cia Tias "Nco txog tsoom qub tub rog Hmoob thiab Los Tsuas thiab lawv cov kws sab laj As mes liv kas uas tau txhawb kev ywj pheej nyob sab ntuj As Xias Hnub Tuaj Qab Teb. Lawv tej peev xwm nrog kev ncaj ncees tiv thaiv kev ywj pheej thiab kev muaj vaj huam sib luag yuav tsis muaj hnub yuav hnov qab li.

Tab sis tu siab tias lawv tej txiaj ntsim nrog lawv lub peev xwm thiab kev ncaj ncees tab tom ploj zuz zus vim tias lawv

cov liv xwm tsis tau muaj leej twg muab coj los nthuav qhia rau neeg paub kom txaus.

Yog li, lub Vaj Loog Zeb no tshwm sim los nyob hauv ib lub zos hauv ib pawg neeg uas muaj feem koom rau npluav rog li hais –kom tau qhia txog neeg As mes liv kas thiab nws cov phooj ywg uas tsis yog As mes liv kas txoj kev ua hauj lwm ua ke los pab tiv thaiv As mes liv kas cov tub rog txoj kev tuag nyob rau Nyab Laj Qab Teb.

Lub Vaj Loog Zeb no thiaj sawv nres nroos los nco txog lawv lub yeeb koob thiab ua lub teeb ci kom pom qhov tseeb uas tau muab kaw cia tsaus ntuj nti los lawm ntev.

As mes liv kas cov tub rog nyob Nyab Laj Teb tau txais kev pab cuam ncaj qha los ntawm cov As mes liv kas, cov Hmoob thiab cov Los Tsuas nyob rau Los Tsuas Teb. Thaum lub sij hawm ua tsov rog Nyab Laj, Los Tsuas thiab Hmoob cov tub rog Nyas Txias, hu ua "SGU" thiab lawv cov kws sab laj As mes liv kas tau tawm tsam tua cov yeeb ncuab tuaj kav

TXUAS RAU PHAB 10

TXUAS LOS NTAWM PHAB 9

lub teb chaws Los Tsuas. Vim li no, cov tub rog Nyas Txias (SGU) no thiaj tau txwv cov yeeb ncuab uas yuav tuaj mus tua As mes liv kas cov tub rog nyob Nyab Laj Qab Teb. Laww kuj tau txiav yeeb ncuab tej kev thauj riam phom muas txwv, thiab tau thav yeeb ncuab cov tub rog nyob rau teb chaws Los Tsuas kom laww siv tsis tau laww tej riam phom muas txwv mus tua As mes liv kas cov tub rog.

Cov tub rog Nyas Txias (SGU) no tau pab As mes liv kas cov tub rog tsav dav hlau ya saum ntuj raws tua cov yeeb ncuab rau txhua lub hav zoov hav tsuag thiab txhua lub toj roob hauv pes. Cov tub rog Nyas Txias no tseem tau cawm



Slave Schofield photo

As mes liv kas cov tub rog tsav dav hlau uas raug yeeb ncuab tua poob, kom laww dim rov mus txog laww qhov chaw ua hauj lwm, thiab thaum kawg laww tau rov mus txog vaj tog tsev.

Cov Hmoob kuj tau pab zov As mes liv kas lub chaw zais cov tshuab tson dav hlau kom As mes liv kas cov tub rog tsav dav hlau zoo ya tuaj mus tso foob pob rau Nyab Laj Qaum Teb kom tsis txhob ntsib teeb meem. Li ntawd ces thiaj li pab cawm tau As mes liv kas cov tub rog tsav dav hlau ya saum ntuj ntau puas leej.

Hmoob cov tub rog tsav dav hlau tseem tau pab cov tub rog nyob hauv av. Cov tub tsav dav hlau Hmoob muaj peev xwm ya qis thiab qeeb qeeb tuaj mus tawm tsam cov tub rog koom tshas uas muaj riam phom txhij txhua. Cov yeeb ncuab tau raug kev piam sij loj kawg nkaus, tab sis thaum lub sij hawm ntawd peb cov tub rog tsav dav hlau muaj coob leej kuj tau tuag rau yeeb ncuab tes. Laww lo lus txhawb zog lub caj ya dav hlau yog " Ya kom txog hnuab koj tuag", laww thiaj li tuag yuav luag tas.

Tus qub thawj tswj xwm CIA W. E. Colby tau hais tseg tias, "cov SGU lub peev xwm thiab kev thoob tsib tau muab cov tub rog Nyab Laj Qaum Teb khuam tseg tau ntev npaum nkaus li sij hawm npluav rog (10 xyoo). Thiab qhov no qhia tseeb rau As mes liv kas tias muaj tshaj li ntawm 70,000 tus tub rog Nyab Laj Qaum Teb tuaj nyob Los Tsuas Teb lawm. Li

ntawd, laww thiaj li tsis tau mus tua cov tub rog As mes liv kas nyob rau Nyab Laj Qab Teb.

Yuav kom to taub txog Los Tsuas thiab Hmoob tej txiaj ntsim roj ntsha uas tau pab cawm As mes liv kas cov tub rog, yuav tsum tig los xyuas lub hauv paus chiv keeb ntawm As mes liv kas npluav rog "Zais npog".

Xyoo 1954, koom tshas ntaus Fab kis tawm hauv cov teb chaws Xov Tshoj (Indochina) uas muaj teb chaws Los Tsuas koom rau hauv. Fab kis kev swb rog tau ua rau Nyab Laj Teb faib ua tog ywj pheej qab teb thiab tog koom tshas qaum teb. Teb chaws Los Tsuas yuav tsum nyob rau nruab nrab tsis tuaj tog twg, tab sis kev sib tawg ua pab pawg hauv tseem

fwv Los Tsuas tau tshwm sim loj zuj zus tuaj ua rau Koom tshas Nyab Laj Qaum Teb tau chaw tiag taw nyob hauv teb chaws Los Tsuas sab hnuab tuaj.

Tseem fwv As mes liv kas tuav raww txoj kev cia siab tias teb chaws Los Tsuas tseem yuav nyob nruab nrab thaum lub sij hawm cov koom tshas tab tom haub ntxias cov pej xeem nyob rau thaj tsam ntawd. Yawg Hnuab Qub Rau Vaj Pov, Hnuab Qub Tsib James W. Lair thiab yawg Hnuab Qub Rau Harry C. Aderholt yog Peb tug pib tsim tsa kom muaj tub rog Los Tsuas thiab tub rog Hmoob saww los tawm tsam thav teb thav chaw.

Xyoo 1961, tseem fwv Los Tsuas tau thov kom tseem fwv As mes liv kas tso cov CIA tuaj qhia, muab riam phom thiab coj cov neeg toj siab saww tua koom tshas Nyab Laj Qaum Teb thiab cov Nplog liab nyob Los Tsuas teb. As mes liv kas cov tub rog tshwj xeeb (Special Forces) thiab CIA cov tub rog ceev xwm Thaib hu ua (PARU) tau cob qhia Hmoob thiab lwm xeem neeg Los Tsuas toj siab nqis tes tua cov koom tshas.

Thawj pab tub rog SGU tau mus kawm nyob rau Thaib Teb yog xyoo 1961. Vim tseem fwv As mes liv kas muab "npog cia" tsis muaj neeg paub txog laww tej kev tuaj mus cuam tshuam rau kev ua rog nyob teb chaws Los Tsuas, cov SGU thiaj tau lub npe hu ua "As mes liv kas Cov Tub Rog tsis muaj neeg paub". Ntawm cov tub rog uas yog CIA ua tus coj mas Hmoob yog cov muaj peev xwm tshaj.

Kev sib koom tes zaum no tseem ceeb heev, vim kev sib tua nyob Nyab Laj Qab Teb loj zuj zus tuaj, tseem fwv As mes liv kas thiaj yuav tsum tau xa tub rog tuaj mus ntxiv nrog Nyab Laj Qaum Teb sib tua. Nyab Laj Qaum Teb pheej xa muas txwv cuab yeej riam phom hla Los Tsuas Teb thiab tseem cia ntau txhiab tus tub rog nyob rau ped, tseem fwv As mes liv kas thiaj pom tias qhov Nyab Laj Qaum Teb tuaj tswj Los Tsuas Teb yuav tsum kev puas tsuaj rau As mes liv kas cov tub rog nyob Nyab Laj Qab Teb. Tab txawm zoo li ntawd los As mes liv kas tsis kam xa nws cov tub rog tuaj mus rau Los Tsuas Teb ntshai tsam ua rau tsov rog yuav nthuav loj zuj zus tuaj. As mes liv kas thiaj li tso siab plhuav cia cov hauj lwm no rau nws ob tug phooj ywg Hmoob thiab Los Tsuas.

Qhov tsawg mas yeej muaj li 35,000 mus rau 40,000 tus tub rog Hmoob thiab Los Tsuas tau raug tua vim laww saww tawm tsam tiv thav As mes liv kas tej hauj lwm thiab laww txoj kev ywj pheej.

Los Tsuas thiab Hmoob yog cov tau raug kev sib ntaus sib tua hnyav tshaj plaws nyob rau Los Tsuas Teb. Hais txog ntawm kev puas tsuaj, tsis muaj leej twg luj tau hais tias tuag

lawm tsawg leej tiag, tab sis thaum soj ntsuam xyuas zoo mas, npluav tsov rog no, ib leeg ntawm tsib tug txiv neej Hmoob thiab me nyuam tub Hmoob yeej tau raug tua tuag lawm.

Muaj ntau tus me nyuam tub raug xa mus tua rog, tej tus twb sawv tsis txij nws rab phom, yeej tsis tau kawm kev ua rog li. Thaum cov tub rog laus tuag ua ntu zus lawm yuav tas, cov me nyuam tub coob tus uas yeej tsis tau kawm kev tua rog thiaj li ua siab tawv qhawv sawv los tuav riam phom tua cov tub rog yeeb ncuab Nyab Laj Qaum Teb. Tsawg leej kawg nkaus thiaj dim txoj kev tuag.

"Twb yog vim cov Hmoob thiab cov Los Tsuas nyob toj roob hauv pes tej roj ntsa, lawv thiaj thaiv tau As mes liv kas cov tub rog coob leej suav tsis txheeb. Pej xeem fuab fwm Hmoob muaj kwv yees li ntawm 250,000 leej, Hmoob twb muaj txog ntau caum txhiab tus tub rog tau tuag rau tom tshav rog. Tu siab hais tias tseem fwm As mes liv kas ua tsis tau tej yam tsim nyog los qhia rau pej xeem As mes liv kas paub txog Hmoob tej txiaj ntsim."

- Ib tug qub tub rog As mes liv kas nyob hauv tseem fwm nplua rog zais npog.

Cov neeg feem coob tau tuag rau As mes liv kas npluav rog zais npog zaum no yog cov Hmoob thiab cov Los Tsuas nyob toj roob hauv pes, tab sis kuj muaj li 700 tawm tus tub nrog As mes liv kas tau tuag rau hauv tshav rog tib yam nkaus thiab.

Feem coob yog As mes liv kas cov tub rog ua hauj lwm ya nrog dav hlau thiab cov tub rog tshwj xeeb(Special Forces). Cov tub rog tshwj xeeb no mas yog cov tau raug kev puas tsuaj ntau dua vim lawv ua hauj lwm txuam rau Pawg Kawm thiab Ntsuam Xyuas uas yog ib yam hauj lwm zais npog kawg nkaus. Faib ua tej pab tej pawg tsawg tsawg, Cov tub rog tshwj xeeb(Special Forces) no, lawv ua hauj lwm nrog rau cov tub rog neeg toj siab mus nrhiav xov xwm txog yeeb ncuab tej kev txeeb kav sab hnub tuaj, qhia chaw rau dav hlau tuaj tso foob pob tas, mam li ntsuam xyuas kev puas ntsoog. Lawv kuj txais mloog yeeb ncuab tej kev sib tham sib xa xov tib si thiab. Yog xam los, feem ploj tuag ntawm lawv tseem siab tshaj lwm pawg.

Vim muaj kev txhawb saum nruab ntug, As mes liv kas npluav rog zais npog nyob teb chaws Los Tsuas tsim tau ib pab tub rog Nyas Txias (SGU) tsawg tsawg muaj peev xwm tawm tsam tiv thaiv tau Nyab Laj Qaum Teb ib pab tub rog muaj kev kawm bxaus thiab muaj riam phom txhij txhua. Qhov kev txhawb saum ntuj no tseem ceeb rau kev thauj tub rog thiab cuab yeej riam phom mus los raws toj roob hauv pes thiab txhua lub caij tshav ntuj los nag. Cov tub rog tsav dav hlau yog nyob hauv Air America, Continental Air Services, Bird Air, Arizona Air thiab lwm hom dav hlau. Lawv kev ploj tuag los yeej siab kawg nkaus. Txawm hais tias lawv tuag rau txoj kev tiv thaiv As mes liv kas cov tub nrog nyob Nyab Laj Qab Teb los, lawv tsis muaj lub koob lub npe nyob ntawm daim phab ntsa zeb nyob hauv Washington DC.

Kev ploj tuag, piam sij thiab muaj peev xwm ncau mus

dhau tshaj cov tub rog nyob tom tshav rog.

Kev sib ntaus sib tua nrog koom tshas cov tub rog tau ua rau pej xeem Hmoob khiav rau ub rau no raws toj roob hauv pes uas lawv ib txwm hu tias yog lawv vaj lawv tsev. Tsoom neeg thoj nam tawg rog lub neej cia li nyob tos kev pab cuam ntawm cov CIA thiab tseem fwm As mes liv kas muab dav hlau tuaj pov zaub mov, pam vov chaw pw thiab tshuaj kho mob txhua yam. Lawv cia li nyob ua neej tos kev pab lawm xwb. Yav dhau los, lawv ib txwm yog ib co neeg tsis tos luag pab, lawv khwv lawv noj nrhiav lawv haus. Thaum lawv tej liaj ia raug yeeb ncuab tuaj tswj thiab lawv cov txiv neej mus ua tub rog sib ntaus sib tua, lawv muab lawv txoj sia thiab roj ntsha nchuav tag nrho rau txoj kev sib tua kom tau lub neej nyob ywj siab rov qab.

Txawm yuav tau txais kev pab ntawm tseem fwm As mes

liv kas los kab mob kev nkeeg nyob rau cov yeej thoj nam tawg rog tau ua rau tej poj niam me nyuam tuag coob kawg. Ib vuag kab mob qhua taum ua rau cov me nyuam tuag lawm ntau pua tus. Kab mob ua npaws ib vuag dua ua rau neeg tuag coob bxaus ntshai kawg. Cov me nyuam mos tuag thaum tseem yau nce txog li ntawm 70 feem pua. Coob coob tus poj niam thiab me nyuam tuag vim raug yeeb ncuab cov foob pob saum ntuj thiab muas txwv phom me hauv av. Lawv ntsib kev tsim txom quaj tsuag



Steve Schofield photo

txog rau ib theem uas neeg As mes liv kas feem coob yeej tsis tau pom dua.

Cov ntshais Hmoob thiab Los Tsuas nyob toj siab ib txwm yeej tsis tau txais kev kawm txuj li, zaum no yog thawj zaug uas luag qhia lawv kawm ua ntshais kho mob. Lawv tau ua rau sawv daws pom tias lawv muaj peev xwm thiab siab tawv heev.

Yog vim tseem fwm As mes liv kas tau txhawb nqa thiab cog lus pab, cov Hmoob thiab cov neeg toj siab thiaj tau siv zog tawm tsam tua koom tshas kom lawv tau kev ywj pheej. Tab sis lawv txoj kev siv zog tawm tsam tiv thaiv tau tig mus ua ib txoj kev txom nyem tshaj plaws thaum tseem fwm As mes liv kas tau rhuav lawv cov lus cog tseg thiab tau khiav tso lub teb chaws Los Tsuas tseg xyoo 1975.

Dhau ntawd los, cov koom tshas Pab Thej Laus thiab lawv cov phooj ywg Nyab Laj Qaum Teb tau tab meeg tua Hmoob thiab cov neeg toj siab txhiab txhiab leej pov tseg thiab coj ib txhia mus yuam ua qhev rau hauv tej yeej kaw neeg. Lawv tau tso foob pob thiab siv tshuaj lom cov uas nyiag tawm khiav.

Ib tug neeg As mes liv kas ua hauj lwm ntawm USAID tau hais tawm tias "Peb tau tso cov neeg toj siab hauv Los Tsuas rau luag suaj kaum. Hmoob yog cov raug tua coob tshaj vim lawv yog cov muaj siab nruab teb chaws As mes liv kas tshaj plaws. Ntau txhiab tus txiv neej, poj niam thiab me nyuam yaus raug luag raws tua pov tseg thiab kom tu noob mus li".

Hmoob thiaj li khiav nkaum rau hav zoov hav tsuag, khiav hla tub rog koom tshas tej chaw zov kev, tuaj mus kom txog cov yeej thoj nam tawg rog uas Koom Haum Kuj Cuab tau

TXUAS LOS NTAWM PHAB 11

npaj tos nyob rau Thaib Teb. Qhov kawg uas thaiv lawv kev loj tshaj yog thaum lawv nyiaj hla tus niam dej Naj Khoos thaum hmo ntuj, ntau zaus kuj raug luag xuas phom tua pov tseg. Coob leej kuj tau poob dej tuag tas los muaj.

Vim txoj kev ua tsov ua rog zais npog, tsis muaj neeg nrog paub nrog hnov, tsis muaj neeg nrog hlub nrog pab. Hmoob tej txiaj ntsim thiaj raug zais raug kaw cia, tsis muaj neeg tshaj tawm.

Thaum Hmoob tseem nyob hauv cov yeej thoj nam tawg rog, lawv tau ua ib puas tsav yam kom yoog tau raws tej chaw nyob ti ti thiab tej kev tshaib nqhis hauv lub sij hawm uas lawv tsis paub txog xyov lub neej yav tom ntej yuav zoo li cas. Lawv ua *Paj Ntaub* muag kom tau nyiaj los pab tau lawv tus kheej thiab ho khaws tau lawv tej liv xwm tseg nyob hauv cov duab xaws cia qhia txog txoj kev quab yuam khiav tsov rog.

Txawm yuav yeej txoj kev ploj kev ntsoog kom muaj txoj sia nyob los, tsoom Hmoob tseem yuav tsum tau nyiaj tau tiv txoj kev txom nyem ntau yam, thiab tso lawv txoj kev ua neej tseg.

Cov Hmoob uas tau ua hauj lwm rau tseem fwm As mes liv kas ces luag txais lawv tuaj mus rau As mes liv kas teb. Ntau lub koom haum nrog cov koom txoos kev ntseeg tau koom tes nrog tseem fwm As mes liv kas pab kom sawv daws tau tuaj teb chaws no yooj yim. Muaj ib txhia tseem cia siab tias muaj ib hnuv lawv yuav tau rov qab mus nyob Los Tsuas teb. Lub sij hawm dhau mus zuj zus, tseem fwm Los Tsuas tseem tsis tseg txoj ke tsim txom Hmoob, lawv thiaj tau txiaj txim siab hu teb chaws As mes liv kas ua lawv lub teb chaws lawm.

Muaj ntau lub koom haum tau pab tos txais Hmoob tuaj nyob rau Sheboygan, xws li: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Catholic Immigration and Refugee Services, Episcopal Migration Ministries thiab txiv plig Steven Mills nyob hauv lub tsev teev ntuj Grace Episcopal Church. Hnuv tim 24 lub 4 hlis xyoo 1976, thawj tsev neeg Hmoob tau tuaj txog rau Sheboygan, Pastor Don Leonard yog tus tos txais lawv tuaj.

Los txog rau xyoo 2000 no, Sheboygan yog lub nroog tim 14 uas muaj Hmoob nyob coob tshaj rau teb chaws no. Thaum sawv daws tuaj nyob ruaj ntseg muaj vaj muaj tsev lawd, sawv daws kuj zoo siab ua tsaug tias muaj txoj hmoob thiaj tau tuaj txais txoj kev ua lub neej tshiab nrog rau kev yw pheej.

Thaum tuaj txog rau As mes liv kas teb, Hmoob tau hla lub ntiaj teb ib nrab nkaus tuaj, cuag li hla lub sij hawm pua pua xyoo tuaj mus rau ib lub neej muaj kev lis kev cai txawv, muaj kev noj kev haus thiab kev txawj ntse tsis thooj li yav ntuj qub qab dhau los. Ua ntej tsov rog, lawv coj lub neej ua teb cog qoob loo raws roob hav kom muaj txaus noj txaus haus, tuav lawv tej kev lis kev cai kom nyob ruaj nrees raws

phab ntuj uas yuav tau tshais chaw tsis so mus raws lub neej tom ntej xwb.

Ua lub neej tshiab nyob As mes liv kas, Hmoob yuav tsum txhim kho lawv tej kev cai kom yoog mus raws li luag tej kev cai lij choj nyob teb chaws no. Lawv tau tuav lawv txoj kev kwv kev tij, nyob ua pab pawg raws kev txheeb ze kom tau kev sib pab sib txhawb. Lawv lub xyoo tshiab uas yog lub caij noj peb caug, yog lub caij sawv daws hnov suab raj suab ncas suab qeej nrov thiab tuaj pov pob. Lub caij ntuj so, Hmoob muaj kev sib sau ncaws pob thiab ntaus tuj lub.

Txawm tias sawv daws yeej npaj khaws tej txuj ci thiab kev cai no cia rau hauv nruab siab los yeej txhawj ntsoov tias ntshai tsam muaj ib hnuv tej no yuav ploj zuj zus mus lawm yav tom ntej, ces lawv nyob yoog raws lawv lub neej tshiab. Vim npluav rog zais npog ua rau lawv poob qab loj, lawv tseem muaj ntau yam yuav npaj kho.

“Yeej tsis tau muaj ib pab neeg twg uas tuaj txog rooj teb no es tau txais kev txom nyem npaum li haiv Hmoob tau txais vim lawv txoj kev ncaj ncees rau tseem fwm As mes liv kas”

— ib tug ua hauj lwm rau tseem fwm As mes liv kas nyob Los Tsuas teb.

Sheboygan yog ib lub nroog tiaj nyob raws ntuj pas dej thiab txias zias noo tsawv, txawv tej toj roob hauv pes uas muaj huab cua li lub teb chaws Hmoob nyob yav ntuj qub qab.

Tiam sis txawm li cas los, lawv pom tias muaj cib fim ua tau ntau yam txawm hais tias tau ntau caum xyoo yav dhau los lawv tsis tau kawm ntawv, lawv feem coob thiaj tsis txawj nyeem thiab sau ntawv. Tsis tas li xwb, Hmoob xeem lus tsis yog txhawv los ntawm lus Ees Daus-Aws Los Pas (Indo-

Europe) los, lawv cov lus thiaj txawv lus Aas Kiv heev. Vim tias ntawv thiab lus tsis zoo ib yam thiaj ua teeb meem rau Hmoob niaj hnuv daws.

Raws li teb chaws As mes liv kas zaj liv xwm, txhia haiv neeg uas tau thoj nam tuaj nyob rau rooj teb no mas hais qhov tsawg kawg yuav tsum siv li ob tiam neeg, thiaj li yuav yoog tau raws luag, cov Hmoob nyuam qhuav tuaj twb tsim tau ntau yam zoo kawg lawm. Tej yam uas Hmoob tsim tau no yeej tsis ua rau cov As mes liv kas uas tau mus ua hauj lwm nyob teb chaws Los Tsuas ceeb kiag li, vim lawv paub Hmoob yog ib haiv neeg siab ncaj thiab nquag tsis txhawj txog kev ua hauj lwm.

Txij thaum thawj pab Hmoob thoj nam tawg rog tuaj txog twb muaj li 30 xyoo lawm — xam tau hais tias yog ib tiam neeg - feem coob ntawm cov Hmoob laus yeej yog tib cov pej xeem them se xwm yeem rau tseem fwm thiab muaj hauj lwm ua khov kho.

Txawm Hmoob lub neej ntsib kev ploj tuag ntxuag kua muag, Hmoob tau tuaj txhab ib lub zog tshiab rau ntau haiv neeg uas sib koom ua neej nyob ua haiv neeg As mes liv kas thiab, tsis tas li ntawd, Hmoob tau coj Hmoob tej kev lis kev cai tuaj ntxiv rau pej xeem fuab fwm As mes liv kas tej txuj ci kom haj yam muaj nuj nqi los txhawb lub teb chaws mus rau txoj kev vam meej nto moo.



Steve Schofield photo

Dedication Speakers

Master Sergeant Shua P. Yang

Master Sgt. Shua P. Yang was born in Laos and came to the United States when he was 9 years old in the spring of 1976, after the fall of Laos to communist North Vietnam. He and his family settled in Sheboygan, where he graduated from Sheboygan South High School. After attending two years of college at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, he joined the U.S. Army in November 1988.

Yang attended basic combat training at Fort Dix, N.J. After basic training, he went to Fort Huachuca, Ariz., for advanced individual training as an intelligence analyst. He also attended the U.S. Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga., in June 1994.

His assignments brought him to Germany and Korea, as well as Kentucky, North Carolina and Washington.

Yang has been deployed in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia, Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, Joint Task Force Falcon in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

Yang has served as senior chief of intelligence, intelligence analyst, special security officer and other numerous senior lead-



ership positions.

He has been awarded the Bronze Star, the Meritorious of Service Medal twice, the Army Commendation Medal five times, the Army Achievement Medal eight times, the Joint-Commendation Medal, the NATO Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Government of Kuwait), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award twice.

In addition to his military training, Yang holds a bachelor's degree in criminal law from Fayetteville State University in North Carolina.

Yang has been married to KaoKalia (Lo) Yang for 13 years. They have four children, three boys and a girl; Jack is 15, Paying Maggie is 9, Chue Yee Joshua is 7 and Moua Cheng Thomas is 4 months.

He has five brothers and two sisters, all living in Wisconsin. His parents are former SGU Colonel Yong Chue Yang and Plia Yang.

Yang is currently assigned to the 18th Airborne Corps Artillery as the G2 intelligence sergeant.

The Rev. Lucian Bouchard



The Rev. Lucian Bouchard was born in Massachusetts of French-Canadian descent. For more than 48 years he has been a missionary of the Oblate Order.

He served the Hmong and other hill tribes' people of Northern Laos for 18 years and speaks fluent Hmong and Lao. While in Laos, he traveled on foot throughout the mountains, ministering to his scattered flock.

He took especially good care of the lepers, who were abandoned by their people and the government of Laos. He was loved and respected by all who knew him.

He left Laos in 1975 when the communists took over the country and immediately began training for his next assignment in Borneo. In 2005, he returned to the United States after spending nearly 30 years as a missionary in the mountains of Borneo.

He now ministers to the Haitian and Cuban immigrants of Miami.

Dedication Speakers

Colonel James William (Bill) Lair

James William (Bill) Lair was born on July 4, 1924, and grew in the Panhandle of Texas. At the outbreak of World War II, he enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 18. He joined the 3rd Armored Division and landed on Omaha Beach as part of the Allied invasion at Normandy, in France. Lair's division led the breakthrough at Saint Lo and continued to fight across France, Belgium and Germany, meeting their Russian allies at the Elbe River, ending the war in Europe.

After the war, he left the Army and graduated in 1950 from Texas A&M University with a degree in geology. With the outbreak of the Korean War, Lair was recruited by the CIA. After training, he was sent to Thailand to train Thai personnel in guerrilla warfare because it was believed that the Chinese communists were getting ready to invade Thailand and other countries in Southeast Asia.

Lair arrived in Bangkok in 1951 and helped open a training camp near Lopburi, Thailand, where they trained men from all the Thai military services.

Because the remote areas of Thailand, Laos, Burma and Vietnam had little government presence or protection, Lair proposed to the Thai Director General of Police that he form a unit that could send small teams into the areas to assist the local people



in protecting themselves. These people could then protect their villages from the communists who were trying to infiltrate these areas.

Lair was made a captain in Thai Police, and formed a unit called PARU (Police Aerial Reinforcement Unit) in 1952. This special-forces unit began to patrol the remote areas in Thailand, especially the border areas. The unit made contact with the Hmong people living there as well as other hill people.

When Capt. Kong Le made his coup in Laos in 1960, it opened the door in Laos for the communists. Lair's PARU helped prepare the Hmong to defend their area of Laos against the communist forces. By that time, Lair had been promoted to full colonel. He founded and named the Hmong "Special Guerrilla Units" — or SGUs — to fight guerrilla warfare.

The first group of Hmong SGU received their military training in Houa Hin, Thailand, in 1961. As the Vietnam conflict escalated, these SGU became the United States' most loyal allies fighting the U.S. "Secret War" in Laos alongside American armed forces to defend U.S. interests in Southeast Asia during the entire Vietnam War.

Lair worked with the Hmong people in Northern Laos, and utilized them in small PARU teams on the border to gather information on the communists.

Colonel Yong Chue Yang

Colonel Yong Chue Yang was born on Sept. 5, 1930, in the village of Hakaker, some 20 kilometers southeast of Nong Het, Laos. He attended a Lao elementary school in Nong Het when he was 8 years old, and was a classmate of Gen. Vang Pao from 1938 to 1945. When World War II reached Laos, Yong Chue went back to his village and was appointed as recording secretary for the chief of Pha Vene village.

In 1961, Yong Chue joined the Secret War in Laos, organized by the United States Central Intelligence Agency, under the command of Major Vang Pao. He was a part of the first Special Guerrilla Units that went to Houa Hin, Thailand, for tactical training. He was then appointed as a training officer for the second team of SGU soldiers. By the end of the training program, Yong Chue was promoted to company commander, battalion commander, then to regiment commander. He rose to the rank of colonel by



the end of the Secret War in 1975.

Colonel Yong Chue Yang came to Sheboygan in August 1976, under the sponsorship of Haven's Pastor Don Leonard, and Trinity Lutheran Church. Yong Chue worked four years with Eclipse Manufacturing as a punch-press operator, then 10 years with Pentair Water Filtration (formerly known as Ametek). He retired from Ametek in 1993.

In 1985, Col. Yong Chue Yang and his wife, Pliia Yang, received their U.S. citizenship and adopted new names — Churchill Yang and Patricia Yang.

Col. Yong Chue Yang was the founder of the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association of Sheboygan and served as its first president from 1980 to 1981. His dedication and love for his people played an important role in the resettlement of the Hmong community in Sheboygan and throughout the state of Wisconsin.

Dedication Speakers

Brigadier General Harry C. "Heinie" Aderholt Retired Aug. 1, 1976

Brigadier Gen. Harry C. (Heinie) Aderholt was commander of U. S. Military Assistance Command in Thailand and chief of the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group in Thailand, with headquarters at Bangkok. Gen. Aderholt was born in Birmingham, Ala., in 1920. He graduated from pilot training with a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps in May 1943. During World War II, he served in North Africa and Italy as a B-17 and C-47 pilot.

After the war, Aderholt was a staff pilot with the Army Air Forces Eastern Flying Training Command, and later served as a flight instructor and flying safety officer with the 3800th Air Base Wing. During the Korean War, he commanded a Special Air Warfare Detachment of the 21st Troop Carrier Squadron.

He next served as an operations staff officer with the 1007th Air Intelligence Service Group in Washington, D.C., and Headquarters 18th Air Force as tactical and operations staff officer. In 1954, he was assigned to Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Wiesbaden Air Base, Germany, and served in the Directorate of Plans as an unconventional warfare planning staff officer.

In 1957 Gen. Aderholt returned to Washington, D.C., assigned to the 1007th Air Intelligence Service Group as a special warfare staff officer, and in September 1959 joined the 1040th U.S. Air Force Field Activity Squadron in the same capacity.

He left for Okinawa in 1960, where he became commander of the 1095th Operational Evaluation Training Group, where he was instrumental in developing the Laos airfield complex used throughout Southeast Asia as support sites for special warfare operations forward staging bases for rescue and recovery operations in Laos and North Vietnam.

In the early 1960s, Aderholt served as special advisor to the commander of the U.S. Air Force Special Air Warfare Center at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., where he contributed to RAND Corp. studies that resulted in the publication of the

Single Integrated Attack Team Study. He then was transferred to Hurlburt Field, Fla., where he served as vice commander and commander of the famed 1st Air Commando Wing.

After serving in the Philippines, he was selected by Headquarters Pacific Air Forces to activate the 56th Air Commando Wing at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. This wing, which he organized and commanded from December 1966 to December 1967, conducted low-level night interdiction missions over the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos and North Vietnam, using prop-driven aircraft.

In 1968 he was reassigned to the U.S. Air Force Special Air Warfare Center at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., to serve as deputy chief of staff for operations. Gen. Aderholt returned to Thailand in June 1970 for a two-year tour of duty as chief of the Air Force Advisory Group, Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group, in Bangkok. He retired from active military duty in December 1972 at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

He was recalled to active duty in October 1973 and assigned as deputy commander, United States Military Assistance Command, Thailand, and deputy chief, Joint United States Military Advisory Group, Thailand, with headquarters at Bangkok. Gen. Aderholt became commander, USMACTHAI, and chief, JUSMAG, Thailand, in May 1975.

His military decorations include the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with eight oak leaf clusters, Joint Service

Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation Emblem, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon with oak leaf cluster.

He was promoted to brigadier general in May 1974.

Due to illness, Brigadier Gen. Aderholt was not available to speak at the dedication ceremony.



Secret War Heroes

**The following
Lao and Hmong soldiers
were killed in action
in Laos during the
U.S. Secret War:**

Chong Vue Chang
Her Chang
Neng Chue Chang
Nou Chang
Theng Chang
Vang Ly Chang
Wa Yee Chang
Xeng Douandy
Chong Hang
Dang Hang
Doua Hang
Ger Hang
Yang Hang
Kue Hang
Lu Hang
Pao Hang
Sau Hang
Shoua Hang
Sue Hang
Wang Hang
Xang Hang
Xang Hang
Yao Hang
Yong Mang Hang
Yong Seng Hang
Fai Neng Her
Houa Her
Kao Her
Kao Her
Nhia Lu Her
Soua Her
SuHer
Sue Her
Tong Chao Her
Vue Her
Yee Her
Ying Her
NengKhang
Houa Kue
See Pao Kue
Wang Kue
Xiong Kue
Chai Xiong Lee
Cher Seng Lee

Cher Shoua Lee
Chong Tou Lee
Chue Ge Lee
Chue Lee
Chue Lee
Dang Lee
Doua Lee
Ger Lee
Her Pao Lee
Ka Yeng Lee
Kao Lee
Lia Lee
Lue Lee
Ma Lee
Mai Lee
Neng Lee
Nhia Houa Lee
Nhia Koua Lee
Nhia Shoua Lee
Nhia Thao Lee
Nhia Xiong Lee
Pa Mai Lee
Pao Lee
See Lee
Song Leng Lee
Song Xiong Lee
Teng Lee
Thao Lee
Thai Lee
Theng Lee
Tong Lee
Tong Lee
Tong Yee Lee
Tong Ying Lee
Tou Lee
Tou Ue Lee
Va Xue Lee
Vang Lee
Wa Neng Lee
Xiong Lee
Yang Pao Lee
Yeng Lee
Yeng Lee
Yer Lee
Ying Lee
Yong Vang Lee
Youa Lue Lee
Za Thao Lee
Nao Vang Lor

True Lor
Vang Pao Lor
Chia Moua
Chia Moua
Teng Moua
Tong Cho Moua
Chong Toua Moua
Yong Ge Moua
Phong Pha
Blia Yang Thao
Chao Thao
Chong Moua Thao
Doua Thao
Ger Thao
Pa Vue Thao
Pheng Thao
Xay Thao
Cha Sia Vang
Cheng Vang
Chong Cher Vang
Fai Chia Vang
Ga Cheng Vang
Her Vang
Houa Vang
Hue Yia Vang
Kao Vang
Ker Vang
Khoua Vang
Koua Vang
Lee Vang
Lor Vang
Neng Vang
Nhia Tou Vang
TengC Vang
Teng Vang
Tou Lee Vang
Wa Neng Vang
Xeng Foung Vang
Xue Vang
Yang Pao Vang
Yong Xeng Vang
Chong Tou Vue
Chue Cheng Vue
Fai Dang Vue
Nao Chia Vue
Yong Ge Vue
Youa Pao Vue
Chong Xiong
Doua Xiong

Kou Xiong
Lia Tou Xiong
Xai Doua Xiong
Yia Xiong
Wa Chao Xiong
Boua Hue Yang
Boua Tong Yang
Cha Xia Yang
Cha Yang
Cha Yang
Chai Yang
Chang Yang
Cher Pao Yang
Cher Toua Yang
Cher Yang
Chia Koua yang
Chia Neng Yang
Chue Sao yang
Chue Yang
Ger Yang
Houa Lee Yang
Ka Pao Yang
Kao Yang
Lau Yang
Lue yang
Lue Yang
Mai Yang
Mang Yang
Nou Pao yang
Nu Chue yang
Nu Yeng Yang
Nu Ying Yang
Pang Ge Yang
Phia Yang
Song Seng Yang
Tong Yang
Tou Lue Yang
Va Neng Yang
Va Yang
Vang Ge Yang
Vang Yang
Vue Yang
Wang Seng Yang
Xang Yang
Xue Yang
Yee Yang
Yeng Yang
Yia Yang
Youa True Yang

Secret War Heroes

**The following
Lao, Hmong and
American soldiers served
in Laos during the
U.S. Secret War:**

Harry C. "Heinie" Aderholt
Gary E. Alex
Alvin H. Burkelew
James B. Borden, M.D.
Fr. Lucien Bouchard
Edgar "Pop" Buell
Chou Chang
Humphrey C. Chang
James J. Chappell
Nao Xue Chang
Nhia Tou Chang
Robert Curry
Vue Chang
Xong Kao Chang
Youa Lao Chang
Youa Vang Chang
Jerry Daniels
Donald A. Dougan
Richard E. Fisher
Chang Xia Hang
Chong Hang
Doua Hang
Her Hang
Sao Hang
Chai Pao Her
Tong Ge Her
Ya Lue Her
Ken S. Hessel
Leah L. Hessel
David Hungerford, M.D.
William P. Jackmin
Garry R. Jenkin
Anne Kirkley, M.D.
Sidney E. Kirkley, M.D.
Emmet James Kay Sr.
Kee Khang
Khan Khaykham
Khamsing Kingpradit
Chia Kue
Sao Long Kue
William "Bill" Lair
Blia Yao Lee
Cha Va Lee
Cha Ying Lee
Chai Va Lee
Cher Chia Lee
Cher Yee Lee
Chia Thong Lee
Chia Vang Lee
Chia Vue Lee

Chong Cha Lee
Chong Moua Lee
Chong Neng Lee
Chou Lee
Chua Tong Lee
Chue Chao Lee
Chue Long Lee
Chue Ma Lee
Ga Ge Lee
Ge Lee
Houa Lee
Ka Ge Lee
Kee Lee
Khoua Pao Lee
Khoua Vang Lee
Kia Tou Lee
Long Lee
Nao Chue Lee
Nao Kap Lee
Nengsher C. Lee
Nhia Chao Lee
Nhia Koua Lee
Pa Doua Lee
Pa Vue Lee
Pang Tou Lee
Pang Cheng Lee
Pang Xang Lee
Phia Lee
Thai Lee
Thao Ku Lee
Tong Lee
Tong Yia Lee
Wa Koua Lee
Xai Pao Lee
Xai Toua Lee
Xay Vang Lee
Xiong Pao Lee
Yang Houa Lee
Yang Xiong Lee
Yong Seng Lee
Youa Vang Lee
Youa Vang Lee
Tou Ger Lee
Robert Lesmeister
Stacy B. Loyde III
Fa Pao Lor
Chu Wa Lo
Nhia Thong Lo
Tong Va Lo
Nhia Va Lor
Xa Lor
Stan Monnie
Chai Yang Moua
Cher Pao Moua
Chia Moua

Chong Ber Moua
Dang Moua
Nao Cha Moua
Nao Pao Moua
Nao Va Moua
Tong May Moua
Tou Lee Moua
Xia Ge Moua
Griffith Quinby, M.D.
Savang Phovixay
Steven R. Schofield
Douglas R. Swanson
Chong Lee Thao
Choua Dang Thao
Ga Yang Thao
Kia Tou Thao
Koua Neng Thao
Lo Thao
Nhia Xue Thao
Pa Ge Thao
Vang Neng Thao
Donald E. Valentine
Boua Long Vang
Chia Deng Vang
Chue Ma Vang
Dang Vang
Fai Tou Vang
Hue Yia Vang
Shoua Kao Vang
Tong Lou Vang
Tong Chao Vang
Wa Neng Vang
Xai Chou Vang
Xia Mai Vang
Yong Seng Vang
Yong Xao Vang
Chue Pao Vue
Fong Vue
John Bee Vue
Kong Fong Vue
Nao Leng Vue
Nao Pheng Vue
Vang Lee Vue
Wa Xeng Vue
Chong Neng Xiong
Fai Cheng Xiong
Ga Toua Xiong
Ger Xiong
Ka Cheng Xiong
May Neng Xiong
Nhia Vang Xiong
Pao Xiong
Pao Xiong
Wa Yang Xiong
Xai Chou Xiong
Xai Doua Xiong

Xay Dang Xiong
Yang Xiong
Blia Tou Yang
Boua Hue Yang
Cha Kong Yang
Chai Koua Yang
Chang Sai yang
Chao Yang
Chong Sher Yang
Choua Blong Yang
Chu Lao Yang
Chue Doua Yang
Dang Ker Yang
Fai Neng Yang
Fai Yao Yang
Ger Yang
Henry B. Yang
Joshua Fue Yang
Lau Shua Yang
Long Yang
Nao Bee Yang
Nao Chao Yang
Nao Chay Yang
Nao Houa Yang
Nha Ger Yang
Nhia Koua Yang
Nhia Yeng Yang
Nou Yeng Yang
Pang Ge Yang
Pange Yang
Pang Yia Yang
Pao Yang
See Yang
Shoua Lue Yang
Sia Yang
Sia Fong Yang
Thai Yang
Thong Yang
Tong Khue Yang
Tong Shoua Yang
Toua Yang
Vang Pao Yang
Vue Yang
Wa Sao Yang
Wang Yee Yang
Xa Founng Yang
Xai Mao Yang
Sai Phia Yang
Xay Mao Yang
Ya Yang
Yang Xeng Yang
Yer Yang
Yia Yang
Yong Chue Yang

Secret War Heroes

**The following
U.S. Army Special Forces
soldiers were killed in
action in Laos during the
U.S. Secret War:**

Leonard P. Allen
Samuel Almendariz
Wayne M. Anderson
Martin I. Arbeit
Arthur E. Bader Jr.
John R. Bean
Bruce R. Baxter
Gerald M. Biber
Theodore J. Berlett
John M. Bischoff
Dennis W. Bingham
Domingo R. S. Borja
Charles F. Bookout
Russell P. Bott
Ronald H. Bozikis
Alan L. Boyer
William Boyle
Andrew T. Brassfield
George R. Brown
William T. Brown
Charles D. Bullard
Michael P. Burns
Johnny C. Calhoun
Howard B. Carpenter
Donald G. Carr
Alan B. Cecil
Stephen J. Chaney
James D. Cohron
Robert L. Coleman
William M. Copley
Kenneth M. Cryan
David A. Davidson
Ricardo G. Davis
Sebastian E. Deluca
Ronald J. Dexter
Richard W. Diers
James H. Duncan
Irby Dyer III
Raymond L. Echevarria
William M. Fernandez
Richard A. Fitts
John T. Gallagher
Fred A. Gassman
Douglas J. Glover
Charles H. Gray
George C. Green Jr.
James M. Hall
Gilbert L. Hamilton

Wayne L. Hawes
Donald A. Hawkins
Earl W. Himes
Charles G. Huston
Richard K. Joecken
James E. Jones
Sanderfiard A. Jones
John J. Kendenburg
Paul C. King Jr.
Joseph G. Kusick
Gary R. LaBohn
Glen Oliver Lane
Billy R. Laney
Delmer L. Laws
Richard E. Legate
Allen R. Lloyd
Michael J. McKibban
Peter H. McMurray
Michael H. Mein
David I. Mixter
Walter H. Moon
Steven Nagy
Dennis P. Neal
Robert M. Nelson
Robert D. Owen
Raymond F. Parks
Normen Payne
Michael A. Piacentino
Robert D. Plato
Robert F. Preiss Jr.
John A. Premenko
Ronald E. Ray
James L. Ripanti
Mark H. Rivest
John H. Robertson
Vincent F. Sabatinelli
Don R. Sain
Klaus D. Scholz
Mike J. Scott
Lee D. Scurlock Jr.
Leo Earl Seymour
Donald M. Shue
Stanley L. Sieting
George K. Sisler
Ben D. Snowden
Willie E. Stark
James D. Stride Jr.
Randolph B. Suber
Roger L. Teeter
Paul H. Villarosa
Tim L. Walters
Ronald R. Watson
Joseph V. Whelan
Peter J. Wilson

James H. Zumbrun
Robert E. Sheridan
Charles E. Shultz
Billy J. Simmons
Ronald E. Smith
Raymond C. Stacks
Larry A. Stephens
William W. W. Stubbs
Robert J. Sullivan
Samuel K. Toomey III
Gunther H. Wald
Ronald L. Watson
Philip M. Werbiski
Eddie Lee Williams
David A. Woods

**The following U.S.
Air Force servicemen
were killed in action
in Laos during the
U.S. Secret War:**

Michael T. Adams
John J. Bach
Robert L. Baldwin
William R. Baldwin
Charles D. Ballou
Joel R. Birch
John W. Bischoff
Wayne F. Bolton
Milton D. Britton
Walter F. Burke
Dwight S. Campbell
Walter R. Capps
Roger W. Carroll Jr.
Pete Christianson
Louis J. Clever
Vincent Colasuonno
Robert D. Davenport
Albert J. Davis
David M. Davidson
Richard H. Defer
Carl R. Dice
James V. Dorsey Jr.
Francis M. Driscoll
Esequiel M. Encinas
Charles E. Engle
Richard Etchberger
James D. Farmer
David A. Farrow
Richard A. Fleming
John L. Flinn
Rodney H. Gott
Greg Greenhalgh

C.K. Hackett Jr.
Wilton N. Hatton
George B. Hertlien
Richard L. Honey
Robert G. Hunter
William P. Justice
G.W. Kamenicky
Dewey A. Keithly Jr.
Ronald K. Kelsey
George A. Kurtyka
John A. Lehecka
Charles K. Lovelace
Homer M. Lynn Jr.
Richard W. Lytle
Juan A. Maldonado
Walter W. Martin
William R. Martin
Edward E. McBride
Clarence L. McNeill
Richard D. Milton
Harold L. Mischler
Dennis E. Morgan
Richard A. Nance
Harry T. Niggle
Robert E. Olson
Dan B. Packard
R.W. Pennington
Angelo Pullara
Milton H. Ramsey
Henry J. Repeta
Robert F. Ronca
John M. Roper
Charles P. Russell
Robert E. Ryan
Steven R. Sanders
Craig B. Schiele
Hugh L. Sherburn
Robert L. Sholl
Martin L. Siegwalt
James L. Smith
Glen J. Taliaferro
Cecil F. Taylor
Albert Tijerina Jr.
Charles E. Tofferi
G.H. Touley III
Walter H. Trisko
Jackie W. Troglen
Edwin N. Troxel
Willis G. Uhls
Halton R. Vincent
Tommy Ray Warren
Roger E. Witte

Secret War Heroes

The following U.S. Air Force servicemen were unaccounted for POW/MIA in Laos during the U.S. Secret War:

Yuji T. Adachi
John S. Albright, III
Richard K. Allee
Henry L. Allen
Robert W. Altus
Thomas H. Amos
Gregory L. Anderson
Howard V. Andre Jr.
Richard D. Appelhans
Frank A. Armstrong III
John W. Armstrong
James H. Ayres
Arthur D. Baker
Michael D. Balamoti
John R. Baldridge Jr.
Alfons A. Bankowski
Paul W. Bannon
William O. Bare
Robert R. Barnett
Gregory I. Barras
Glenn A. Belcher
Holly G. Bell
Marvin E. Bell
Robert E. Bernhardt
Robert D. Beutel
Clarence F. Blanton
Donald B. Bloodworth
Jon K. Bodahl
Lonnie P. Bogard
Christos Bogiages Jr.
Arthur R. Bollinger
Ronald L. Bond
Dale Brandenburg
William J. Brashear
Henry P. Brauner
Robert A. Brett Jr.
William L. Brooks
Ralph W. Brower
Donald A. Brown
Earl C. Brown
Joseph O. Brown
Charles R. Brownlee
Park G. Bunker
Charles W. Burkart Jr.
Mason I. Burnham
John R. Burns
Jack M. Butcher
Neil S. Bynum
Joseph H. Byrne

James H. Calfee
Clyde W. Campbell
William E. Campbell
James K. Canford
Ralph L. Carlock
John L. Carroll
Patrick H. Carroll
Roger W. Carroll Jr.
Richard Castillo
Anthony F. Cavalli
Gary A. Chavez
Joseph L. Chestnut
Richard D. Chorlins
Joseph Christiano
John C. Clark II
Stanley S. Clark
Thomas E. Clark
Fred L. Clarke
George W. Clarke Jr.
Eugene L. Clay
Robert F. Coady
William K. Cogdell
Guy F. Collins
William C. Coltman
William K. Colwell
Dwight W. Cook
Leroy J. Cornwell III
Larry W. Cotton
Peter R. Cressman
James E. Cross
Carlos R. Cruz
Thomas C. Daffron
Douglas V. Dailey
Ben F. Danielson
Charles B. Davis Jr.
Daniel R. Davis
Edgar F. Davis
James W. Davis
Robert C. Davis
Michael F. Dean
James E. Dennary
Rexford Dewispelaere
Delma E. Dickens
David T. Dinan III
Morgan J. Donahue
Michael L. Donovan
Jefferson S. Dotson
Thomas A. Duckett
Charles G. Dudley
Thomas W. Dugan
William Y. Duggan
James B. East Jr.
Norman D. Eaton
Joseph Y. Echanis
Robert J. Edgar

Dennis L. Eilers
Robert T. Elliott
Richard G. Elzinga
Patrick M. Fallon
Samuel Fantel
F. W. Featherston III
Charles R. Fellenz
Allen E. Fellows
Charles F. Fenter
Douglas D. Ferguson
Donald G. Fisher
Paul L. Foster
James R. Fuller
Russell D. Galbraith
Richard O. Ganley
Fredrick T. Garside
James P. Gauley
Paul E. Getchell
Thomas E. Gillen
Henry G. Gish
John W. Goeglein
Robert A. Gomez
Norbert A. Gotner
Frank A. Gould
Laurent L. Gourley
Robert A. Govan
James W. Grace
Norman M. Green
Robert B. Green
Robert Greenwood Jr.
Larry I. Grewell
Louis F. Guillermin
Andre R. Guillet
Theodore W. Guy
Willis R. Hall
Richard C. Halprin
Larry J. Hanley
Arthur H. Hardy
Lee D. Harley
Stephen W. Harris
Patrick K. Harrold
Joseph L. Hart
Thomas T. Hart II
Gregg Hartness
Arden K. Hassenger
Thomas E. Heideman
Gerald R. Helmich
Roger D. Helwig
Ronnie L. Hensley
Thomas T. Hensley
Richard W. Herold
James W. Herrick Jr.
Peter D. Hesford
Fredrick W. Hess Jr.
Raymond H. Hetrick

Gordon C. Hill
John R. Hills
Elmer L. Holden
Melvin A. Holland
David H. Holmes
Robert E. Holton
Charles L. Hoskins
Carter A. Howell
David L. Hrdlicka
Edward M. Hudgens
James L. Hull
Russell P. Hunter Jr.
Robert N. Ireland
Wayne C. Irsch
Andrew Ivan Jr.
James T. Jackson
Paul V. Jackson III
Derrell B. Jeffords
Paul L. Jenkins
George W. Jensen
Paul F. Johns
Steve B. Johnston
Louis F. Jones
Harold Kahler
Wendell R. Keller
Everett O. Kerr
John C. Kerr
Ernst P. Kiefel Jr.
William L. Kieffer Jr.
Charles D. King
Herbert A. Kirk
Michael L. Klinger
Roy A. Knight Jr.
Terry T. Koonce
Stanley N. Kroboth
Alva R. Krogman
Theodore E. Kryszak
Roy R. Kubley
Charles F. Kuhlmann
Harry R. Lagerwall
Gregory P. Lawrence
Leonard C. Lessler
Douglas P. Lefever
Jeffrey C. Lemon
Edward W. Leonard Jr.
James W. Lewis
Robert L. Liles Jr.
Carroll B. Lilly
Ronnie G. Lindstrom
Donald M. Lint
James D. Locker
Stephen G. Long
Albin E. Lucki
Carter P. Luna
Albro L. Lundy Jr.

CONTINUED ON 20

Secret War Heroes

The following U.S. Air Force servicemen were unaccounted for POW/MIA in Laos during the U.S. Secret War:

Donovan L. Lyon
George D. Macdonald
Charles Macko
William L. Madison
Ralph W. Magee
Douglas F. Mahan
Russell D. Martin
Phillip L. Mascari
Michael J. Masterson
Joseph A. Matejov
Glenn Matteson
Peter R. Mathes
Oscar Mauterer
Larry W. Maysey
Francis J. McGouldrick Jr.
Scott W. McIntire
Kenneth D. McKenney
Paul O. Meder
Todd M. Melton
George B. Menges
Virgil K. Meroney III
Curtis D. Miller
Robert C. Miller
Ronald K. Miyazaki
Burke H. Morgan
Peter G. Moriaty
Charles F. Morley
Harvey Mulhauser
Harold E. Mullins
Henry G. Mundt II
Wayne E. Newberry
John L. Obrien
William H. Ostermeyer
William A. Ott
Gilbert S. Palmer Jr.
Ralph N. Pattillo
Merlyn L. Paulson
Donald E. Paxton
Edwin J. Pearce
Wayne E. Pearson
William Phelps
Elbert A. Phillops
Robert E. Pietsch
Alan D. Pittman
Peter X. Pike
Joseph Pirucello Jr.
Harmon Polster
William J. Potter Jr.
William T. Potter
Daniel R. Poynor
James A. Preston
David S. Price
Severo J. Primm III
William D. Pruett
Dennis G. Pugh
Irving B. Ramsower II
Rollie K. Reaid
James W. Reed
Gomer D. Reese III

Walter A. Renelt
Robert A. Rex
Robert F. Rex
Charles F. Riess
Richard J. Robbins
Lewis M. Robinson
Charles E. Rogers
Luther L. Rose
Charles S. Rowley
Stephen A. Rusch
Donald M. Russell
Mitchell O. Sadler Jr.
Leslie V. Sampson
William S. Sanders
Leroy C. Schaneberg
Vincent C. Scott Jr.
Stephen R. Scrivener
Douglas M. Seeley
Patrick L. Shannon
Donald E. Shay Jr.
Charles E. Shelton
William C. Shinn
Walter H. Sigafoos III
Lance P. Sijan
Robert E. Simmons
Daniel E. Singleton
James E. Sizemore
Owen G. Skinner
Edward D. Smith Jr.
Harding E. Smith Sr.
Harry W. Smith
Victor A. Smith
Warren P. Smith Jr.
Darrell J. Spinler
George R. Spitz
Donald Springsteadah
Robert L. Standerwick
James E. Steadman
Roger H. Stearns
Howard D. Stephenson
Virgil G. Steward
Walter M. Stischer
Aubrey E. Stowers Jr.
Charles W. Stratton
Fredrick J. Sutter
William C. Sutton
Smith Swords III
Marshall L. Tapp
Lothar G.T. Terla
Daniel W. Thomas
Leo T. Thomas Jr.
George W. Thompson
Larry C. Thorton
William A. Todd
John C. Towle
Robert L. Tucci
Russell K. Utle
Walter S. Van Cleave
David R. Wagener
Lloyd F. Walker
Samuel F. Walker Jr.
Thomas T. Walker
Francis A. Walsh Jr.
Richard A. Walsh III

Charles J. Wanzel III
Neal C. Ward
Ervin Warren
Gary D. Warren
Courtney E. Weissmueller
John T. West
Donald E. Westbrook
Albert D. Wester
Oscar B. Weston Jr.
James B. White
Lawrence W. Whitford Jr.
James E. Whitt
James W. Widdis Jr.
Wallace L. Wiggins
Robert V. Willet Jr.
David R. Williams
James E. Williams
John Q. Wingham
Robert C. Wistrand
Thomas H. Wolfe
Wayne B. Wolfkeil
Don C. Wood
William C. Wood Jr.
Don F. Worley
Karl E. Worst
Murray L. Wortham
Donald L. Wright
Thomas T. Wright
Richard C. Yeend
Barclay B. Young
Robert J. Zukowski

The following Air America pilots and crew were killed in action in Laos during the U.S. Secret War:

James H. Ackley
Howland D. Baker
John M. Bannerman
William H. Beale
William Beardsley
David W. Bevan
Gerald A. Booth
Howard W. Boyles
Earl E. Bruce
Wallace Buford
Jack W. Cavill
Joseph Cheney
Herbert W. Clark
Terry D. Clark
Kevin D. Cochrane
Benjamin F. Coleman
John F. Cooney
Robert N. Crone
Ralph S. Davis
Gerald Delong
Charles Dieffenbach
Clarence Driver
Wayne Ensminger
Darrell A. Eubanks
Norwood N. Forte
Benjamin A. Franklin
William J. Fraser

William J. Gibbs
Norman A. Grammer
John T. Grover
Joel M. Gudahl
Howard F. Heinrich
Charles Herrick
Billy K. Hester
Eamon B. Hodkins
Donald C. Heritage
Charles D. Jones
John S. Lewis
Richard N. Lieberth
Charles Mateer
Charles McCarthy
Patrick McCarthy
Roger B. McKean
James B. McGovern
Jon Christian Merkel
Harold E. Mulholland
Jon Charles Murray
Frank Muscal
Gideon Newton
Charles Osterman
Lowell Z. Pirkle
Lester N. Porter
Harvey B. Potter
Gerald Prudhomme
Lloyd K. Randell
James E. Rausch
William E. Reeves
Frederick J. Riley
George Ritter
Hugh D. Rogers
Robert J. Sarno
Milton Smart
Franklin D. Smith
Herbert S. Strouss
Frank Thorsen
Roy F. Townley
George E. Varney
E.J. Weissenback
John Wilmot
Glen R. Woods
Aubrey A. Wooten
Walter Wizbowski

The following Continental Air Service Inc. aircrew were killed in action in Laos during the U.S. Secret War:

Carl Angel
Paul Birch
Ted Greenlaw
Richard Harter
Frank Horn
Ralph Irwin
Dan Kelley
Mike Lepi
Pek Petsarath
Pete Poleman
Harvey Smith
Jack Weber

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by Steven R. Schofield

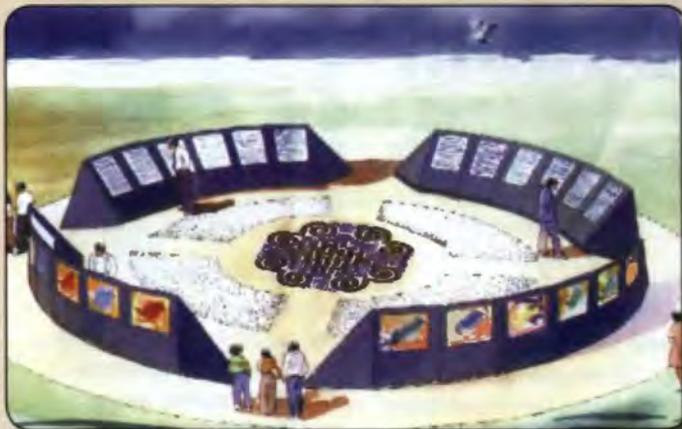
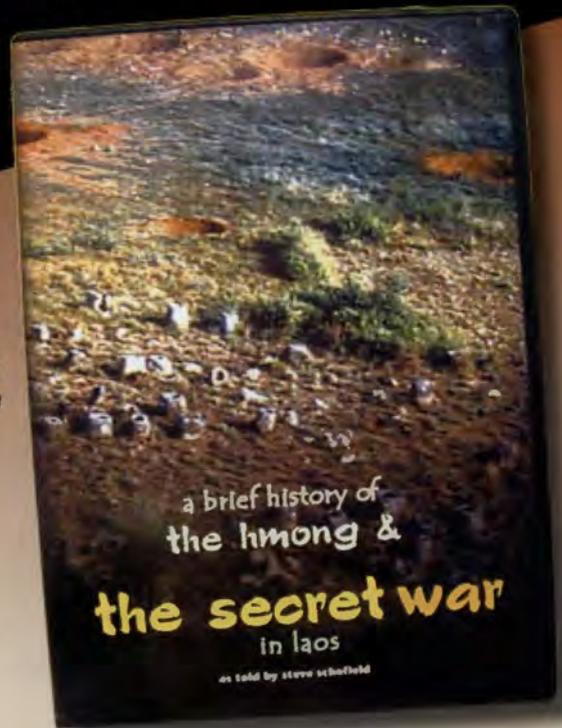
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Cha Yeng Lee, in the living room of his Sheboygan home, talks about his experiences in the Secret War and how the Special Guerrilla Units helped U.S. troops fight the communist regime. Press photos/Sam Castro



PROFILE

'It is worth it to fight for freedom'

Cha Yeng Lee recalls his 15 years fighting in the Secret War

BY BOB PETRIE
Sheboygan Press staff

Yer Lee considers her father, Cha Yeng Lee, a hero — for raising her and her brothers and sisters in their adopted hometown of Sheboygan, and for his sacrifices when he helped U.S. troops fight the communist

regime during the Vietnam War.

"I look up to him," said the 20-year-old nursing student at the University of Wisconsin-Sheboygan, the youngest of her father's six children. "He's guided me ... he's always there for me."

This is why Yer Lee has been helping with the artwork on the Lao, Hmong and Ameri-



Among the many framed photos and certificates hanging in his home, Cha Yeng Lee has on display a Congress-issued commendation and citation for Vietnam War service in Laos, dated May 14, 1997.

can Veterans Memorial, to be dedicated July 15 at Deland Park in Sheboygan.

"I felt I can give something back to my father and the soldiers," Yer Lee said.

Thousands of Hmong soldiers died during the years of the Secret War, and Cha Yeng Lee, 69, who served from 1960 to 1975 in the Special Guerrilla Units, says he was a hero simply for fighting — and surviving.

"I was not killed, and I would like to think I was one hero, because many other people were killed, and I survived," Cha Yeng Lee said through an interpreter.

Memorial has special meaning

The memorial being built in Sheboygan, Lee said, is special for him and his family. It will offer testimony of the role the SGU soldiers played in assisting U.S. soldiers during the war. Lee said he is thankful for the support of local government and the generosity of those who donated the money to build the memorial.

"It means a lot to me, because I am getting older now, and pretty soon I'll be gone," said Lee, who rose from the rank of private to captain during his service. "It is good for my children, and the future generations will know I am here and I am lucky because I didn't get killed."

Lee was wounded by a mortar attack in 1964 during a skirmish in Padong, suffering injuries to his knee and left leg, pain he still can feel at times.

He said he joined the SGU because the communists invaded Laos to take their farms and land.

"It is worth it to fight for freedom, to stay alive, to be owners of land," Lee said. "Our fight was justified because the communists came and we did not like the communist regimes."

On excursions over the border to South Vietnam during the war, Lee fought side-by-side with U.S. soldiers.

"Our job and duty was to protect them, so they won't get killed," he recalled. "We must do whatever it takes to protect them."

Lee was recently married for a second time. His first wife, Xia Xiong, died in 1990. Since 1996, he and his children have resided in Sheboygan, where he says they have found a good life — far different than that of being "plain farmers" in Laos, with little money. He is now retired, after working several jobs in Sheboygan.

"We have everything ..."

"We have everything," Lee said about living in Sheboygan. "We have cars, we have telephones, TV. ... I think America is much better than in Laos."

On the walls of the family's comfortable upper flat on Sheboygan's north side are many photos and plaques, reminders of the war, as well as a framed recognition of his service, and his certificate of U.S. citizenship. Five of his children still live in the area, and some have attended college.

"I'm hopeful for the younger ones that they try to go to school and they try to work to support themselves because I cannot do that (anymore), and I am pleased to see the younger ones have a brighter, better future," Lee said.

Yer Lee said her father, as an elder, traditional Hmong, is respected by many people in the community.

"Many people come to ask him for help," she said.



Cha Yeng Lee, in the living room of his Sheboygan home, talks about how he was wounded by a mortar attack in the Secret War in 1964. The SGUs helped U.S. troops fight the communist regime.

As for Cha Yeng Lee, the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial in his adopted hometown will be a reminder of all of the sacrifices the brave soldiers of the SGU made for this country.

"It is something that (shows) we helped commit to help the United States during the Secret War and the memorial will tell all the story why we helped the U.S. government," Lee said.



Cha Teng Thao, in the living room of his Sheboygan home, talks about his experiences in the Secret War. Thao was a T-28 pilot and fought alongside U.S. troops. He and his fellow pilots are pictured in the framed photo taken after a mission in 1972. All the pilots in the photo lived through the war, he said. Press photos/Sam Castro

PROFILE

'My life was in danger, so I had to leave'

Cha Teng Thao still must struggle with dreams of war-torn Laos

BY ERIC LaROSE
Sheboygan Press staff

In Cha Teng Thao's sleep, he is still fighting in the war in Laos. "Even after being here for 30 years, all of my dreams still happen over there," Thao said. "I still dream about helping the U.S. government that fought the war over there. I have no dreams that happen over here. That probably is going to be for a while."

Thao was one of the thousands of Hmong soldiers who fought alongside United States troops in Vietnam in Special Guerrilla Units. He grew up in the Laos village of Rooj Tshuaj, which translates to



Cha Teng Thao, front row, far right, and his fellow T-28 pilots after a mission in 1972. All the pilots in the photo survived the Secret War.

Medicine Mountain.

"Before the war I was still young. I went to school. Life was ordinary," Thao said through a translator.

Thao had a normal life going to school, but the war was all around him. In 1970, he joined the Hmong air force as a fighter pilot.

"There were not enough Hmong and Lao pilots that would help to bombard the communists. I was about the age to join the Hmong air force and I was learning to be a fighter pilot," he said. "Our mission was to drop bombs and to stop the enemies."

In his living room in Sheboygan, Thao displays a photograph of the men with whom he fought, taken after a mission in 1972. Everyone came back, he said, and everyone in the photo lived through the war.

As the war ended and the U.S. withdrew its forces, communist armies hunted down Thao and others who fought in the Special Guerrilla Units and aided the U.S. Thao, his parents and his extended family were left to fend for themselves in the jungle. Thao also fought back feelings of guilt about the war.

"When the war ended I had a feeling that ... I didn't really provide enough help to the U.S. soldiers in that area," Thao said. "I still felt like I was at war because I couldn't stop."

Life for Thao and his relatives was dangerous after the war. They stayed hidden, missing an early massive evacuation of Hmong to Thailand because they remained in the jungle — too frightened to leave.

To survive, they had to make their way, slowly, toward Thailand.

"My life was in danger, so I had to leave," he said. "In December 1975 I started crossing the jungle coming to Thailand, crossing the Mekong River. I took my family and we walked through the jungle. It was a scary trip because we had no defense, no guns, no ammunition. We were scared of being discovered, if people heard we were fleeing or running. It was very scary."

Two months before the five-day journey out of the jungle, he married Dia, his wife to this day. His parents and new wife stayed behind in the jungle, saying since Thao was younger and stronger he should make the journey to Thailand himself and send for them later, after he arrived in the U.S. He didn't see his wife for three years.

"When I first landed in the U.S., I felt some kind of peace in my mind about the war. But then I still kept thinking about my relatives still living in Laos, and that gave me another stressful feeling that I let them down," Thao said. "I came by myself to the U.S. After three years being here, (I) started working with people in Thailand so they could go back to Laos and get my wife and my family."

When Thao first came to America, he lived in Saginaw, Mich. He moved to Sheboygan with his family — wife, Dia, and his four U.S.-born children, Cindy, Victor, Robert and Leslie — in 1997. Today he works as a machinist with Curt G. Joa Inc. in Sheboygan Falls.

He still has family in Laos. He receives letters from them from time to time, with word that times are still hard in his native land.

"Laos is still not in peace," Thao said. "I have relatives who write me and explain to me their life, their nightmare life they



Cha Teng Thao and his wife, Dia. He moved to Sheboygan with his wife and his four U.S.-born children, Cindy, Victor, Robert and Leslie, in 1997. Today he works as a machinist with Curt G. Joa Inc. in Sheboygan Falls. Submitted Photo

live in the jungle. That's kind of put me in a lot of stress, thinking back. That is everything in my life that I don't feel good about."

He said he's happy that his children have grown up in a land of opportunity, but the U.S. culture has not afforded his and other Hmong children an opportunity to learn about their heritage.

"The only concern we have is the children are born here, they grow up here and they do not always listen to the parents," he said. "We are concerned about their future: How are they going to survive here or are they going to keep some of our family's traditions? That's a problem we do have."

Thao said he hopes the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial, which will be dedicated July 15 at Deland Park in Sheboygan in honor of those who fought in the Secret War, will remind their children why the Hmong came to America and teach everyone about the sacrifices they made.

"The Hmong fought for a reason," he said. "The memorial is a living witness for the future generations. Even our kids, they should know that the Hmong were involved in the Secret War. The memorial is an educational tool for everyone, not just Hmong. Even though there were a few people who knew what happened during the Secret War, a lot of people didn't know."

PROFILE



Khamsing Kingpradith received a congressional citation on July 20, 1996, in honor of his dedicated service and support of the U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam War.

Khamsing Kingpradith, seen here in the living room of his Sheboygan home, talks about his experiences as a medic and supply officer in a Special Guerrilla Unit during the Secret War. The SGUs helped U.S. troops fight the North Vietnamese.
 Press photos/Sam Castro



‘We acted like one’

Khamsing Kingpradith says little separated the soldiers of the Secret War

BY ERIC LITKE
 Sheboygan Press staff

Khamsing Kingpradith still limps, and can't walk too long or too fast without leg cramps, because of the mine shrapnel that once tore into his feet and legs and is still embedded in one knee.

But Kingpradith, formally Lt. Khamsing Kingpradith of a Special Guerrilla Unit, said the present discomfort is a small price for the honor of defending his homeland more than three decades ago.

"If you cut (off) my legs, how am I going to get back to my front? My buddies are there," Kingpradith, 68, recalls telling a medic treating his wounds in 1968.

From 1961 to 1975, Kingpradith fought with the SGU in the Secret War, where thousands of Hmong and Lao soldiers

died fighting the North Vietnamese army in Laos to help U.S. troops fighting in South Vietnam.

Speaking in Lao through an interpreter, Kingpradith said fighting was his only option.

"I had to go because I was in the battle (already)," said Kingpradith, who was an army medic and supply officer. "I volunteered to join the army because my country was in war and I have to defend it. I cannot just sit and wait and hope it will be at peace."

Thinking back to the war during a recent interview at his home on North 11th Street in Sheboygan, Kingpradith said he was fortunate to survive.

"Very, very often I think about the big battles we had, and then friends who were killed," said Kingpradith, of the SGU's 202nd Battalion. "I was lucky to be saved."

One battle in particular is forever etched in his mind — Phousaphan — a confrontation where he suffered the wounds he still bears and only one in 10 of his fellow soldiers survived. Three battalions, totaling 9,000 men, were cut to less than 1,000 men.

Kingpradith spent 28 days in the hospital and three months away from his unit after Phousaphan, rehabilitating the injuries to his feet and legs so he could rejoin his company. But just as the soldiers of the Secret War went largely unacknowledged, so did his sacrifice.

"I was injured, and then it healed and that was it," Kingpradith said. "My company commander brought me a uniform — that's all that they gave me. ... That's the award."

Kingpradith, who fought alongside Hmong soldiers in units trained by Thai officers using U.S. military strategy, said little separated the soldiers of the Secret War, despite their varied backgrounds.

"We acted like one," Kingpradith said.

"You kill or be killed. ... It's the same," he said. "We were just the same SGU soldiers fighting for the same purpose."

Though Kingpradith said losing the war is still a bitter pill all these years later, he is thankful it opened the door for him to come to the United States. The date was May 13, 1988, and "it can never be forgotten," he said.

"Here everybody is being taken care of no matter what, when you are sick or you are old, or when you have no money," Kingpradith said. "Back in Laos, people are pretty much up to themselves."

Now, after nearly two decades in this country, Kingpradith and his fellow soldiers are being honored for their service alongside American soldiers in Vietnam with the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial, to be dedicated July 15 at Deland Park in Sheboygan.

"Many people made sacrifices and lost their lives, and now the memorial standing here, it is a reminder of the war, of the bond between us and the United States ... because we made a commitment to help the United States during the Vietnam War in Laos," Kingpradith said. "It will make people remember those who died for freedom."

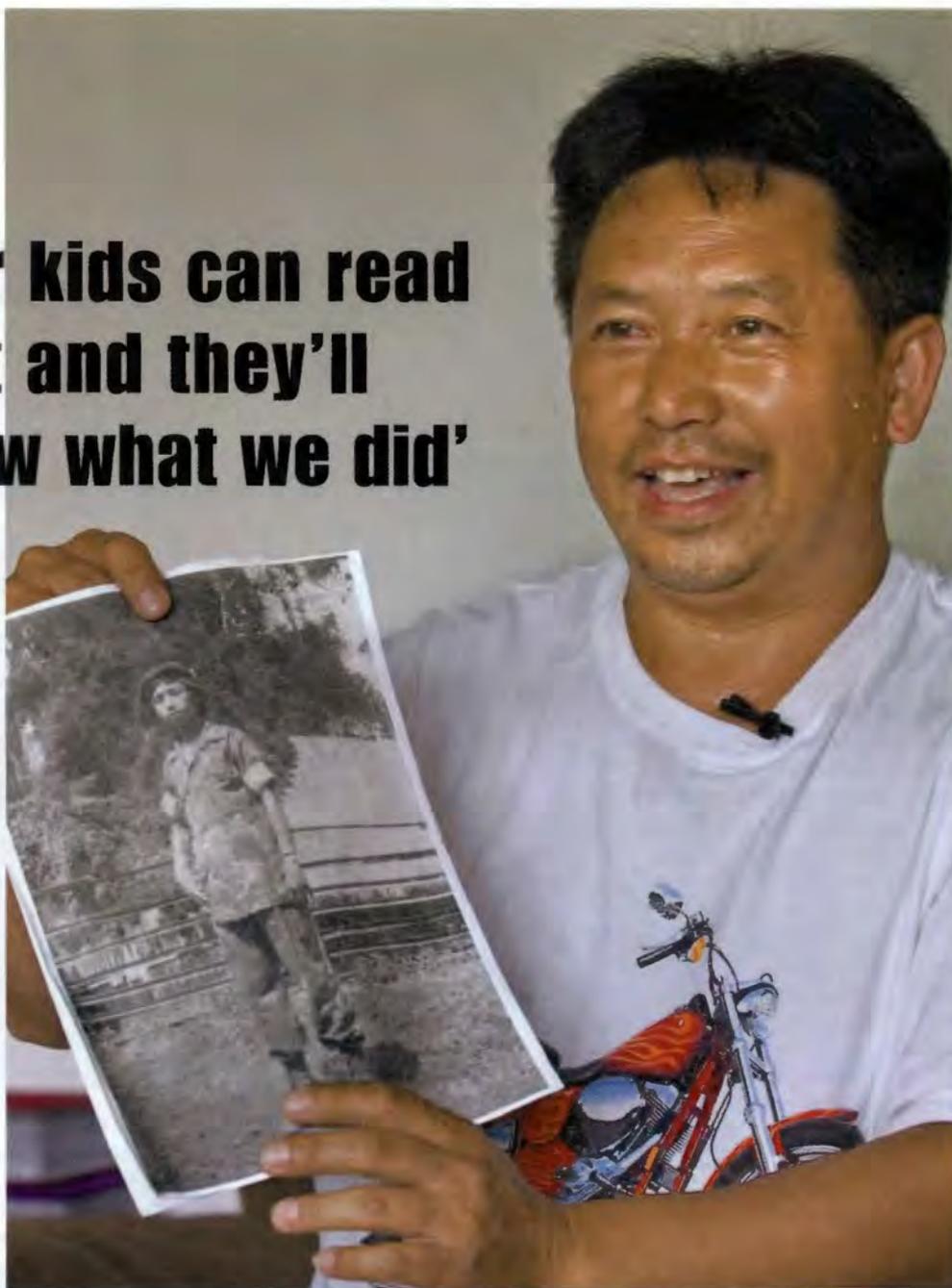


Khamsing Kingpradith talks about being wounded and his experiences as a medic and supply officer. Below, a certificate from the Lao Veterans of America hangs on a wall in his home. The certificate states Kingpradith served in one of the Special Guerrilla Units during the Secret War. Press photos/Sam Castro



'Our kids can read that and they'll know what we did'

Yang H. Lee talks about a photo of himself as a young boy. The photo is dated May 2, 1978. Lee, as a member of a Special Guerrilla Unit from 1972 to 1975, carried supplies to American and Hmong troops in the rainy jungles of Laos and also served as a cook. Press photo/Sam Castro



PROFILE

Yang H. Lee hopes generations see importance of memorial

BY TROY LAACK
Sheboygan Press staff

As a 12-year-old boy, Yang H. Lee of Sheboygan was lucky to survive his first firefight in the Laotian jungles in the CIA-sponsored Secret War against communism in the Vietnam War era.

Twelve of his fellow soldiers were killed that day, he

said.

"A couple of my friends died in front of me," Lee said.

Lee, 46, carries around a constant reminder of the horrors of war — he was wounded by shrapnel from a grenade.

"I still have a couple pieces of metal in my back," Lee said. "I have a scar on my scalp."

His allies, other members of the Special Guerrilla Unit, were able to overwhelm the communist soldiers to rescue the survivors in Lee's unit, he said.

Lee was in the SGU from 1972 to 1975, cooking and carrying supplies to United States and Hmong soldiers amid almost constant rainfall in the Laotian jungle, he said.

"We delivered water, delivered food," Lee said. "It was a pretty hard time to cook."

After the U.S. military left Southeast Asia in 1975, the war still wasn't over for the Hmong people, Lee said. He and others had to hide out in the jungles of the Phou Bia Mountain, the highest point in Laos at 9,300 feet.

"The communists took over and we didn't want to go to jail," Lee said. "We lived in the jungle for a couple years and tried to get across to Thailand."

Lee witnessed more fellow Hmong soldiers die during communist attacks as he and other Hmong fled to Thailand.

"They tried to kill us in the morning, about three o'clock," Lee said. "We were asleep and we woke up. After about 10 minutes, an AK-47 was pointed at us."

Lee's group lost 15 men in that raid but escaped by throwing a grenade at the communist soldiers.

Lee excited about memorial

Lee is excited about the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial being built at Deland Park.

The \$140,000 memorial, paid for with private donations, is slated for dedication July 15. The memorial honors Lao, Hmong and U.S. personnel who fought in the Secret War.

"That's very important for those who served on the SGU. I feel like most in the young generation, they don't know why we're here," Lee said. "I like that it'll have information about the way we served during the Secret War. It's very important that the names of who served and information about how we served is in there."

The circular memorial will feature colorful ceramic mosaics on the exterior wall designed by local students, with panels of text engraved in granite in the interior. Half of the text will be about the Secret War while the other half will list names of people who fought in it. In the center of the memorial will be a geometric pattern reflecting the Lao and Hmong people and their cultures.

"Our kids can read that and they'll know what we did," Lee said. "Americans can read it and know what we did for the CIA."

Zer Lee, Yang Lee's wife of 24 years, said the memorial will help preserve the role Hmong people played fighting for the U.S. and against communists.

"I think it's important for your children, your grandchildren," Zer Lee said. "It's important for my children, my sons,



This photo dated May 2, 1978, shows Yang H. Lee as a young boy in a jungle in Laos. Lee carried supplies to American and Hmong troops to support the U.S. during the Secret War.

my daughters, they know what my husband did in our country."

A positive light

Their son, Barry Lee, 19, said the memorial sheds a positive light on the Hmong culture.

"I think it's a good thing for us Hmong to actually have a thing like that to represent us — to know that we were veterans, too," Barry Lee said. "Especially for the U.S. — we helped you guys."

The memorial will be a place where Barry Lee can take his children, he said.

"I'll be able to say, 'Look, Grandpa fought in the war,'" Barry Lee said. "He always told us the stories of how he got here and everything. I think it's exciting — what they survived through and everything."

Yang Lee went from Thailand to Hawaii in 1979, then Sheboygan the next year through the assistance of Lutheran and Catholic social services, he said.



Steve Schofield of Newton is a retired Army Reserve major, and one of the driving forces behind the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial. Press photo/Sam Castro

PROFILE

'If I don't tell people, who is going to do it?'

Steve Schofield's
tireless efforts find
fruition with memorial

BY ERIC LITKE
Sheboygan Press staff

America has long ignored its allies from the aptly named Secret War of the 1960s and 1970s, but that is about to change — starting in Sheboygan — due in large part to the efforts of Steve Schofield.

"The Hmong came to this country, and no one in the government would tell the rest of the country what the Hmong had done, because it was still top secret," said Schofield, 61, of Newton, a retired Army Reserve major. "No one really understood who they were ... or how they got to this country, so I thought, 'Well, if I don't tell people, who is going to do it?'"

Schofield, an Army medic in Vietnam in 1968 and civilian medic in Laos from 1969 to 1975, helped Hmong and Lao troops of the Special Guerilla Units, which fought in support of the American efforts against the North Vietnamese in the Laotian front of the Vietnam War. Thousands of Hmong and Lao soldiers died in the conflict now known as the Secret War.

The Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial in Sheboygan's Deland Park — to be dedicated July 15 — will tell their story to a public that has never heard it, said Schofield, who has done everything from advocating and fundraising to grouting tile to make the project a reality.

"The main message is just to educate ... because so few people know," Schofield said. "The Hmong suffered tremendous casualties — 20 percent of the male population was killed in that war."

The names of hundreds of the Hmong and Lao soldiers killed in the Secret War — painstakingly researched since no official records exist — will be memorialized in the granite panels of the monument, which cost \$140,000. It will be the first Secret War monument of its size and scope in the country.

ChaSong Yang, director of the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association of Sheboygan, said Schofield has been vital to the memorial's success since he joined the effort after the Sheboygan Common Council initially rejected it six years ago.

"Steve came in and he was really an instrumental part of the new campaign to reach out to the community to make the city council and the community understand more about the role the Hmong played during the (Vietnam) War," Yang said. "He was there with the Hmong people, so he was an eyewitness of the contribution the Hmong made during the war, so he was able to open people's eyes."

Schofield's efforts have garnered national praise, as in June he was named runner-up Special Forces member of the year at the Special Forces Association convention in Fayetteville, N.C.

"Anyone that'll listen to me, I've talked about (the Secret War)," Schofield said. "Most of the audiences I spoke to have been very receptive, and most of them say, 'I had no idea. I just didn't know.'"

Schofield said even he wasn't prepared for what he saw when he came to Laos with the U.S. Agency for International Development in 1969.

"It was a bit of a surprise to see the level of the U.S. involvement in a top-secret base in Long Cheng," Schofield said, "to go into this airstrip that had an asphalt runway in the middle of nowhere that wasn't on any map, and to see thousands of Hmong in various uniforms armed to the teeth and

American advisors in civilian clothes armed the same way, planes taking off and landing, with bombs and bomb loads all over the place."

In the year before signing on with USAID in 1969, Schofield had served as a combat medic with the Special Forces studies and observations group, which conducted cross-border operations from Vietnam into Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam. He earned the Purple Heart, for being shot in the cheek and nose, the Presidential Unit Citation, awarded in 2001 when enough information was available about what his unit had done, and numerous other combat medals.

As a civilian medic in charge of the village health program in Military Region II — an area with more than 200,000 Hmong — Schofield oversaw 60 dispensaries and two hospitals staffed by Hmong and other hill tribes people.

Making as many as 20 takeoffs and landings a day in his supervisory role, Schofield survived a 1973 crash in a plane overloaded with medicine, a runway mortar attack, a B-40 rocket that hit his office and having his plane shot at numerous times. He also saw firsthand the devastat-



Right, Nhia Thong Lo when he was a young soldier, with Sam Thong in 1969. Steve Schofield photo

tating toll of the Secret War.

"The helicopters would come in all morning long loaded with casualties," Schofield said of a time around 1972 when the fighting was particularly intense. "We'd see 100 casualties a day, medics working nonstop. ... By 1 o'clock in the afternoon I'd be covered in blood."

Schofield said he was proud to serve alongside the Hmong soldiers, who were battling communist forces for possession of their homeland.

"They fought brilliantly as guerrillas, but when they were forced to fight in (open-field) battles against the North Vietnamese, that's when they were decimated," he said.

"By 1969, when I was there, there were 12-year-old boys on the front lines already, because the men had been killed off," Schofield said, pointing to a picture on his shelf of a 12-year-old Hmong soldier holding an M-16. "That was 1969. By 1973 it was 8-, 10-year-olds all over the place."

For years, Schofield recognized America's — and his — bond with the Hmong in more private ways, throwing an annual party for area Hmong at his home and allowing eight to 12 Hmong families to garden a plot on his property for the last 15 years. But the time has come for more public recognition of their sacrifices, Schofield said.

"The more people that read the story of the Hmong and see what they did, I think they'll understand," he said. "It should have happened years ago."

PROFILE

'My greatest hope (is that) people will learn about us'

Neng Vang needed to serve to defend his country

BY JANET ORTEGON
Sheboygan Press staff

Neng Vang recalls clearly the night his unit — ordered to locate advancing communist troops in Laos — was ambushed.

"There was very heavy fighting, we could only displace during the nighttime to avoid detection," Vang said, speaking through an interpreter. "Very heavy fighting, heavy artillery shooting at us. Casualties really were bad. Two hundred people died."

Vang was 20 in 1970 when he decided he wanted to help protect his country by joining the military, and assisting United States troops during the Vietnam War. He served five years.

"Because there was a commitment between our leader ... and the United States," he said. "I need to serve ... to help to defend my country. I reached my service age (and) I could do something for my country."

Vang was assigned to an intelligence unit, which was ordered to silently pick up the trail of communist troops in Laos.

After the firefight that night, Vang and the rest of the unit put all the injured and dead together in one big, grassy area and called medics for help.

"(Medics) couldn't land because of heavy machine guns," Vang said. "Then our battalion commander told us to pull back and regroup. Plan another strategy

Neng Vang, in the living room of his Sheboygan home, talks about his experiences in the Secret War and how the Special Guerrilla Units helped U.S. troops fight the North Vietnamese.
Press photo/Sam Castro





Neng Vang and his wife, Ya Moua, talk about the special significance of the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial as their granddaughter Ellyllah Her, 4, listens behind a chair in the family's Sheboygan home. Press photo/Sam Castro

how we would proceed ahead again. Two hundred people died. (We) just left them there, not knowing what would happen to them."

Vang is 56 now, a husband, father and shaman. He said he hopes the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial, to be dedicated July 15 at Sheboygan's Deland Park, will help people understand his people's contribution to the U.S.

"The memorial is very important to me," he said. "I am waiting for a chance to go look at it, see it. My hope is when the memorial is done, people ... will go and read the history, learn what we have done in Laos for the U.S. What kind of sacrifice we made. What we were fighting for."

Vang's wife, Ya Moua, 50, said the memorial will be a sign to her that she is at last among friends.

"We are a country-less people," she said. "The memorial means a lot to me. Lets me know people do accept me, my family, as citizens of this country."

Vang's memories of his wartime expe-

riences are still sharp, as is the pain he still feels in the leg that caught the brunt of a grenade during another battle.

"When we pulled back, (we were) shot at, one of the enemy threw a grenade," he said. "(It landed) right under my legs, killing three of (the men) in the platoon. I fell down, fainted. Luckily, the bone was not broken."

Vang was sent back to his post to recuperate, but still has problems with his leg decades later.

"Still — no muscle in back of leg," he said. Vang can't stand in one place for longer than about 30 minutes. "It's painful."

Vang fled to Thailand in 1975 after five years with the military. He and his family lived there until 2004, when they came to the United States — first to North Carolina and then to Sheboygan.

"My greatest hope (is that) people will learn about us," he said. "Understand why we are here. I felt very good to be able to help the U.S. to fight for freedom back in Laos. Grateful ... to be part of this."



"My hope is when the memorial is done, people ... will go and read the history, learn what we have done in Laos for the U.S. What kind of sacrifice we made. What we were fighting for."

**'... their names are
being respected
and honored'**

Col. Blong Thao talks about his experiences as a colonel in a Special Guerrilla Unit during the Secret War and the significance of the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial during an interview in Sheboygan. Press photo/Sam Castro

PROFILE

Col. Blong Thao sees
America starting to recognize
the sacrifices made

BY ERIC LITKE

Sheboygan Press staff

For 15 years in the jungles of Laos, Col. Blong Thao made battlefield decisions that put his countrymen in front of enemy fire — then he watched for decades as his fallen comrades received no recognition for sacrificing their lives alongside American soldiers.

"Many times I wonder if my soldiers died for something," said Thao, 65, of Green Bay, one of the highest-ranking officers in the Special Guerilla Units that fought alongside U.S. troops in Laos during the Secret War. "Now I start seeing they died for a cause, and someone here in America recognizes that sacrifice."

The Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial is nearly finished in Sheboygan's Deland Park, and will be dedicated July 15 as the nation's first monument of its size and scope recognizing the sacrifices of the SGU troops.

The circular monument, 44 feet in diameter, will include the story of the thousands of Hmong and Lao soldiers who died fighting the North Vietnamese army in the Vietnam War's Laotian front, known as the Secret War. In the monument's granite will be carved the names of hundreds who died there.

"They are so close to me (and) I lost them — I cannot bring their lives back," Thao said through an interpreter. "Many of them died in the jungle, in the battlefield, and we could not get their bodies back to their families. ... Now I see that their names are being respected and honored — that is the most powerful meaning for me."

Thao served with the SGU from 1961 to 1975, leading ground assaults that were coordinated with U.S. aerial support. As a colonel reporting directly to the SGU chief, Major General Vang Pao, Thao commanded 1,200 men — many of whom did not return.

Battle recalled

He recalled one battle in 1970 that claimed nearly half of his 21st Regiment after he was given orders to disrupt a communist encampment that had formed in a rough circle at Thong Hi Hin, also known as Plaines Des Jarres.

"The helicopter dropped us right into the middle of the communist troops," in an open field with no cover, Thao said. "We had to clear a path or a corner that we could escape."

The plan was to disrupt the enemy long enough for SGU forces to surround them outside the circle, trapping the communist forces. But they underestimated their adversaries.

"We all squeezed in, but we ended up to be squeezed because the enemy was so many," Thao said. "They were able to fight against the outside troops ... and also contain us in the middle."

By the time his regiment cut their way to a safe zone, only 700 men remained, and Thao was left dazed with a concussion from an explosion.

But the toll at Plaines Des Jarres paled in comparison to a battle in 1969 at Phouphathee, where Thao's 202nd Battalion was part of an SGU force of 10,000 assigned to protect a secret U.S. radar installation. For two months, the SGU held off a force of about 30,000 communist troops.

"To me the memorial is a living stone, it is a friendship between our people and the U.S. ... that we have done something together. My soldiers died, so many died, and I cannot bring back their lives. ... When they have their names in the memorial, other people will recognize them and see that they have made sacrifices."

Thao said keeping his troops there was one of the hardest decisions he ever made.

"That was very heavy fighting and very close fighting," he recalled. "I had to contain all my soldiers so we would stay fighting and not give up."

It was not until 4,000 of their number had been cut down that the SGU was overcome, the hill surrendered and the 20 American radar technicians killed by the communist troops, Thao said.

And while the war ended for the United States with a withdrawal in 1973, Thao's trials were far from over. In 1975, with the communist Pathet Lao in power, he was sent to a "re-education" camp in northeast Laos.

It would be his home for more than a decade of manual labor, under threat of death. Thao remained a prisoner until 1986, when he said he was freed to make a positive impression on visiting U.S. and Russian officials.

But even after a quarter-century of battle and imprisonment, Thao does not regret his decision to fight.

"The war kind of brought friendship between our people and the people in America because they brought us here," said Thao, who came to Green Bay from Laos in 1992 and has lived there since.

Emotional scars

But the emotional scars of the Secret War do not quickly fade.

"I have not had any dreams about America yet," Thao said. "I would like to be able to dream about America because this is a country of hope, but most of my dreams are backwards, back to the fighting, back to seeing my soldiers killed."

Remembering those soldiers, Thao said, is why the "stone witness" in Sheboygan is so important.

"To me the memorial is a living stone, it is a friendship between our people and the U.S. ... that we have done something together," Thao said. "My soldiers died, so many died, and I cannot bring back their lives. ... When they have their names in the memorial, other people will recognize them and see that they have made sacrifices."





Henry B. Yang talks about his role in the Secret War as a member of the Special Guerrilla Unit. Yang, who now calls Sheboygan home, said it was difficult to leave Laos. Press photo/Sam Castro

PROFILE

'Life during the war time was very hard'

Henry B. Yang's decision to leave Laos was difficult after so much sacrifice

BY BELIA ORTEGA
Sheboygan Press staff

Henry Benjamin Yang still remembers the Secret War like it was yesterday.

The 55-year-old Sheboygan resident served in a Special Guerrilla Unit from 1970 to 1975 with the 2nd Platoon, 3rd Company, 23rd Battalion. The soldiers assisted the U.S. troops in fighting the North Vietnamese.

"Life during the war time was very hard ... there was no farming," Yang said through a translator. "It is much better in the U.S. In Laos life is hard ... we kept moving from place to place."

Yang distinctly remembers a week when it rained every day and night. The soldiers in his unit had to

move from place to place to keep safe. The boots that they were wearing chafed their feet and caused blisters. Yang said he couldn't walk much and at times he had to crawl.

After his service in the war, Yang said he, his wife, Bee, and three children had to escape Laos to Thailand through the jungle because of all of the turmoil. People were being taken hostage and killed. He said many of the high-ranking officers were caught and put into concentration camps, tortured and died.

Bee Yang, 54, said she didn't think they were going to survive. She was skeptical of the people that they met through the jungle and feared that they were going to kill them.

The family was able to pay someone to take them across the Mekong River to Thailand in 1976.

"That was the most scary thing to do that you have to make the decision to leave because you spend so much time and sacrifice so much," Henry Yang said about leaving Laos.

Living in America

The family moved to Chicago in 1978 from a refugee camp in Thailand called Nong Khai. In 1980, the family moved to Sheboygan, where two of Henry's brothers were living. His brothers said Sheboygan was a small, easygoing town with a growing Hmong community and many educational options.

Today, Yang lives in Sheboygan with his wife and two sons, James, 22, and Jack, 20. Yang also has five daughters (Zoua, 32; Xe, 29; Mayyer, 27; Susan, 25; Nancy, 23), and of whom are married and live in different cities in Wisconsin.

Bee Yang said they were lucky to have escaped Laos and were able to make it to the U.S. The Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial, which will be dedicated July 15, is a symbol of the sacrifice that many soldiers made for freedom, she said.

"It is great to be remembered," Bee Yang said through a translator. "All my four brothers were killed while they were serving. They were all children. I am deeply touched and moved."

Three of Bee's brothers — Chue Cheng Vue, Fai Dang Vue, Yong Ge Vue — will have their names engraved in the memorial.

Henry Yang, who now works at Kohler Co. setting up machines for operators, said the memorial will remind the community who the Hmong and Laotians are.

"It's a very good witness for our people," he said. "I am very grateful to the city officials who donated the land for what they have done and I'd like to say thank you to the Hmong community."



Bee Yang describes life in Laos and the special significance of the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial to her and her husband, Henry B. Yang. Press photo/Sam Castro



One of many historic photos and documents on display in the living room of Henry B. Yang.

'... that was my job that I had to do'

Pao Xiong's role as a medic was a harrowing one

BY TROY LAACK
Sheboygan Press staff

Pao Xiong of Sheboygan, a medic in a Special Guerrilla Unit that fought against communism along with United States soldiers during the Vietnam War, pulled many injured soldiers out of harm's way during fighting in the jungle.

"I was very, very scared because they were fighting, they were killing and I was among the soldiers, but that was my job that I had to do,"

PROFILE

Xiong, 51, said through an interpreter. "My job was to save the injured soldiers, give them medicine ... and rescue them."

Xiong, who began his duties in 1969 in Laos, was injured in the back and hand by mortar fragments.

"We were walking in an enemy zone and there was fighting and suddenly, there was a mortar that came and exploded nearby," Xiong said. "About five died right there, and many were injured."

Xiong was asked by one dying soldier to carry a message back to his family.

"That was very touching because I didn't know who his family was," Xiong said. "I still feel guilt because I didn't know who the family was of this soldier who was dying, and I could not accomplish his wish."

Xiong is gratified that the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial is being built at Deland Park.



Pao Xiong talks about what the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial means to him. Xiong, a Sheboygan resident, was a medic in a Special Guerrilla Unit during the Secret War. Press photos/Sam Castro

Pao Xiong talks about photos he has displayed in the living room of his Sheboygan home. Xiong was a medic in a Special Guerrilla Unit during the Secret War and helped get many wounded soldiers out of harm's way during fighting in the jungle.



The memorial, slated for dedication July 15, honors Lao, Hmong and American citizens and military personnel who fought in the Secret War against communism in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War era.

The circular memorial will feature colorful ceramic mosaics on the exterior wall designed by local students, with panels of text engraved in granite in the interior. Half of the text will be about the Secret War while the other half will list names of people who fought in it. In the center of the memorial will be a geometric pattern reflecting the Lao and Hmong people and cultures.

"Its idea is to let people know why we are here," Xiong said. "Once they know the reason why we are here and what we did over here for the U.S., they will be more understanding and more friendly to us."

Appreciation for what they did

Many people here don't appreciate what Xiong and other soldiers did during the war, he said.

"Those who recognize what we have done for the U.S. during the Secret War, they do appreciate our presence here and give us a friendly attitude," Xiong said. "Those who do not know that, they kind of ask, 'What are (you) doing here?' Some people do not know us, so they do not accept us."

May Yer Vang, Xiong's wife, is proud that her husband's name will be engraved in the memorial.

"It will teach our children why we are here and what we brought with us in terms of family traditions," Vang said through an interpreter.

May Yer Vang, 44, lived in a village and farmed during the war. She was raised by her brothers because her parents



May Yer Vang, wife of Pao Xiong, talks about what the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial means to her and about what life was like in Laos.

were killed.

"It was a scary life," Vang said. "We could not sleep at home because it was too dangerous. We had to go and sleep in the jungle."

The couple got married in 1979 and came to Sheboygan in 1985. Xiong said life here is very different compared to Laos.

"In Laos, we did most things manually," Xiong said. "We walked. We didn't have machines compared to here. When you travel, you move by car here."



John B. Vue holds up a photo of himself and his brother when they were young boys. Vue served from 1970 to 1975 in an artillery unit in Laos during the Vietnam War. Vue and many others were members of the Special Guerrilla Units that helped U.S. soldiers fight the North Vietnamese during the Vietnam War. Because their involvement was classified, Vue and his fellow soldiers battled in what is known today as the Secret War. Press photo/Sam Castro

PROFILE

'The army was short of people'

John Vue explains why he became a Secret War soldier at 14

BY BELIA ORTEGA
Sheboygan Press staff

John B. Vue wanted to serve his country as a young soldier in Laos.

At the age of 14, Vue didn't understand the complexities of life and he wasn't strong enough to carry some of the military equipment, but he knew he wanted to fight in a Special

Guerrilla Unit in Laos during the Vietnam War. The soldiers assisted the U.S. troops in fighting the North Vietnamese.

"There was not much difference as soldiers; we were fighting against the communists. We were fighting for freedom," Vue said through an interpreter.

The 49-year-old Sheboygan resident is one of many Among veterans who will be honored at the July 15 unveiling

of the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial in DeLand Park.

Although Vue wouldn't have had much of a choice when it came to serving in the military, he said he decided to serve as soon as he could because he didn't feel that he was much help to his country while he was in school.

"It was very important because our country was invaded by the communists, controlled by the communists, and the army was short of people. I felt like I needed to defend my country in Luang Prabang (in Laos)," he said.

Vue served from 1970 to 1975 in Company No. 3, an artillery unit, and his function was to carry the ammunition to the guns. At the end of the war, his rank was sergeant.

During his service, Vue saw many friends die, and a missile killed his uncle, who he fought alongside. Vue's right leg was injured when a fragment of missile hit him. It took three weeks to heal, but doesn't cause him any pain when he walks.

"There were so many moments that I was scared, like when we started shooting big guns and they (the North Vietnamese) immediately knew where we were," Vue said. "We were at the mercy of the enemy's big guns."

Like many people in Laos, after the war Vue decided it was better to leave the country for the security of his wife, Yia Thao, and four children.

He spent some time in the Philippines where his fifth child was born, before he came to Sheboygan in 1987 and later had their sixth child. He now works in the production assembly line at Lear Corp.

Vue, who serves on the Lao-Hmong American Coalition Wisconsin Chapter, participated in initial conversations with city officials about building a memorial.



John B. Vue talks about his service during the Secret War in a Special Guerrilla Unit in Laos and his feelings regarding the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial in Sheboygan. Press photos/Sam Castro

"I feel sad and I deeply regret that it took so long for people to recognize us at our age," he said. "It could have been sooner, maybe after we lost our country. I do not understand."

Vue has long taught his children about the war and what he went through and said he feels they will be proud to see a memorial come to reality after years of hearing stories about the soldiers who fought in Laos.

Vue's daughter, Pangia Vue, 19, said she is glad there soon will be a memorial to recognize people who fought in

the war and to ward off misconceptions that even some Hmong people her age have.

"I'm pretty sure a lot of them don't understand what's going on. They think we came here as immigrants (but) we came here as refugees," she said. "I consider my dad a hero. I'm really proud of my dad."

While Pangia Vue sees her father as a hero, John Vue said it is hard for him to see himself as such.

"I am not sure I was a hero, but being so young I was never afraid of being killed or dying," Vue said. "I was too young to know what a hero is. All I did was follow the orders



A photo of Nhia Sue Thao, John B. Vue's father-in-law, hangs in Vue's living room.



Pangia Vue, 19, daughter of John B. Vue, talks about how she sees her father as a hero for his service during the Secret War.

of the commander."

For Vue, the memorial will be an "utmost piece of history" that will teach the younger generation and the whole community about the Hmong and Laotian soldiers' roles during the Vietnam War.

Being recognized for fighting a war alongside U.S. soldiers is paramount to explaining to Americans why the Hmong had to come to the United States as refugees.

"We came here for a purpose, and there are people that don't recognize us or give us respect," Vue said. "The memorial could be the best thing that is being built ... there could never be anything better than a memorial."



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Brenda Woveras
Brooklyn Landgraf
Carol Hernandez
Carter Bertram
Cassie Chrisman
Cha Song Yang
Chance Hoyt
Chang Pheng Xiong
Chelsea Senna
Cheri Blanchette
Cindy Yang
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Corey McCall
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Derek Koenig
Derek Lind
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Dionne Landgraf
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Eric LaRose
Erik Hansen
Ezequiel Figueroa
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Ginny Schreiber
Hayden Schultz
Heather Bohman
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Jack Vue
Jacob Starnitcky

Jade Nguyen
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Jamie McFarlane
Jamie Yang
Jason Babino
Jenny K.
Jenny Yang
Jerry Lenz
Jesse McFarlane
Jill Madson
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Julia Flanagan
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Julia Weber
Juniper Alby-Wayh
Justin Schultz
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Kao Vang
Kathleen Quigley
Kathy Koenig
Kevin Cole
Khue Xiong
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Kyle Yedica
Larry Burger
Larry Wieberdink
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Lee Robert
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Lexi Abel
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Linda Wein
Lisa Lee
Lisa Schmidt
Lisa Vihos
Louisa Van Akkeren
Louise Berg
Lucky Lee
Lucy Lee
Lucy Wolff
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Mai Youa Xiong
Many
Maria Giannopoulos
Marlina Mueller
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Mary Lynne Donohue
Mary Starnitcky
Max Angermeier
Megan Kmata
Micah Chrisman
Michael Hoover
Michele Konrad
Mimi Luisa Viglietti
Mireena Vue
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N. Chang
Nancy Quam
Nancy Vang
Nancy Yang
Neng Yang
Neng Yang
Ngao Isabelle Vang
Nhia Xiong
Nick Peterson
Nick Souvannaso
Nko Hna Vue
Olive McCall
Owen Vihos-Hoover
Pa Zong Moua
Pakou
Pang Dao Vang
Patertsia Yang
Patty Aker
Peter Chang
Phoua Yang
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Ray Hernandez
Roberta Filicky-Peneski
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Samantha Wood
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Samy Elisabeth Yang
Sandy Loth
Sandy Vallejo
Santiago Moreno
Sarah Vang
Saul Sosa
Seng Yang
Sequoia Alby-Vargin
Shawn Chrisman
Shawna Anderson
Sheng Yang
Shraddha Mhatre
Spencer Wein
Stasia Gordziej
Steve Jaeger
Steve Schultz
Steve Yankowski

Thank You

Ua Tsaug

Volunteers who contributed to the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial

Tammy D
Tasia C. Jones
Thomas Vue
Tiffany Yang
Tim Tupper
Tina Phothisane
Tom Chang
Tony Lee
Tou Yia Xiong
Tracey Kostreva
Tyler Schultz
Victoria Frios
Wanda Lenz
Xia Vue Yang
Yev Lee
Zak Plautz
Adi Moco
Aidan Quino
Allana Collins
Amber Neils
Amber Villarreal
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Azriel Wolffe
Becky
Becky DenBoer
Bill Chang
Blong Xiong
Brandon Hay
Brandon Kevin
Brian
Bryan Lewis
Carol Hernandez
Carol Rokicki
Cay Lee Yang
Celine vang (France)
CeTee
Cheng Thor
Cher Yang
Cheyenne LaChapelle
Chiang Lor
Chong Yang
Christopher Yang
Chun Lee
Cody Wilterdink
Cole Blandin
Connie Berken
Coopheng Thao
Daniel Mobley



Cha Song Yang, right, and his son Yee Keng, 10, listen as Steve Jaeger, co-designer of the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial and Julia Flanagan, workshop leader and art coordinator, talk about the design and layout of the mosaic tiles that make up the memorial as Taylor Blanchard, 6, background, examines some glass. Press photo/Sam Castro

Kade Byrand
Kayla Fink
Kerry Kautzer
Kia L.
Kimberly Vue
Kristin Goral
Krysta Lehman
Lee Xiong
Lee Yang
Lena Bilbrey
Lisa Vue
Lucy Her
Mai Nou
Mai Yan
Mai Zher
Marshall White
Mason Bilbrey
Matthew Dirk
Mike
Michael Toth

David Thao
Davis Lee
Delaila Escobar
Doua Yang
Dustin Lee
Ed Janairo
Elijah Earls
Elisha Somers
Emily Jean Krebsbach
Ethan
Fong Lee
Gosia Xiong
Hannah Martin
Hue Lee
Isabel Castro
Isabella Ertel
Israel Jasso
Ixia Venel (Artist France)
Jacky
Jacob and Ethan
Jade Jackson
James Kaaf
Jasmine Bohlman
Jasmine Broom
Jean Marie J.
John Her
Jolene Hauser
Jon Gould
Joseph Xiong
Judy Sizonen
Justin Jahns
Justin Wilke
Ka Lia Vang
Kabao Vang

Michele Konrad
Mike Lee
Nancy Yang
Nao Pheng Vue
Nekeyee Jackson
Nicole
Nicole Galicia
Pa Houa Yang
Pa Kou Thor
Pa Ying
Pakou Thao
Pamela Vang
Pang Houa
Pang Vue
Robert Heulson Yang
Ryan Hornickel
Ryan Pockat
Sabrina
Sabrina Grube
Sanna
Seneida
Stephanie Garcia
Sylvainly Vder
Taylor Beninghaus
Tony Hernandez
Tou Moua Lee
Tyler Haas
Tysen
Valerian Brito
Whitney Yang
Xee Lee
Xee That Vang
Yessenia Lopez
Mary Ann Summers



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Together we can do so much."**

- Helen Keller

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Office of the Mayor
City of Sheboygan

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Hmong, once an agrarian community from the mountainous regions of northern Laos, were recruited by the CIA to fight for American interests, and

WHEREAS, thousands of men and young boys fought bravely alongside Americans. Their primary missions were to rescue downed American pilots, gather intelligence, safeguard U.S. radar installations, and conduct both guerrilla and conventional combat,

WHEREAS, their efforts delayed the eventual takeover of Laos by North Vietnam while protecting U.S. troops fighting in South Vietnam, and

WHEREAS, when Americans withdrew from Vietnam in the early 1970's, the Hmong were left to face the vengeance of communist Lao and Vietnamese governments, who sought to destroy Hmong in retaliation for the support of the U.S., and

WHEREAS, after years of planning ground was finally broken for the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial on Sept 24, 2005, and

WHEREAS, this memorial will serve as a reminder that the Lao Hmong people are not forgotten by their battlefield allies, and

WHEREAS, many being honored in the memorial are no longer living, however its tribute to their courage will hopefully educate future generations so that these past sacrifices will not be easily forgotten.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Juan Perez, as Mayor of the City of Sheboygan, do hereby proclaim July 15, 2006 as

LAO HMONG AND AMERICAN VETERANS MEMORIAL DAY

In Sheboygan and encourage all citizens of Sheboygan to participate in this special day of pride and remembrance.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of Sheboygan to be affixed.


MAYOR JUAN PEREZ, J.D.





OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Wisconsin recognize the valiant dedication and heroic effort by the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans in delaying the eventual takeover of Laos by North Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans' service and sacrifice in the secret war is appreciated; and

WHEREAS, the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans' service and sacrifice must be acknowledged and remembered as service to our country; and

WHEREAS, the Lao, Hmong and American Memorial will honor and pay tribute to the servicemen who defended our country and our democratic principles; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do proclaim **July 15, 2006**, as

LAO, HMONG AND AMERICAN VETERANS MEMORIAL DAY

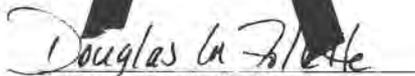
in the State of Wisconsin and on this day do hereby unveil the Lao, Hmong and American Veterans Memorial.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twenty third day of June in the year two thousand six.


JIM DOYLE

By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State