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December 1, 1997

Colonel Fred V. Cherry, USAF (Ret)

Dear Colonel Cherry:

TET '68 hopes this finds you and your family well. We truly enjoyed having you come to Richmond in 1993, and want you to return as a speaker for our 11th reunion. The date is January 31, 1998, a Saturday morning. The program starts at 9:00 a.m.

Lots has happened since 1993. My wife, Joanne, died after a long battle with breast cancer. A year later, the Republicans eliminated my position with state government which involved my helping persons with disabilities. They felt this best served by the private sector - wrong! The people we helped did not have funds to hire attorneys. I abandoned law, as a result, and returned to my first love - petroleum and convenience stores. I am now remarried and an area manager for a company headed by a man I worked with 25 years ago.

As these adversities hit me, I recalled men like you, Dave Gray and Paul Galanti who never quit the fight and never lost all hope. I survived and today, perhaps like you and many who returned, I am at peace with myself and my world.

As one who has returned to Viet Nam, we would most enjoy hearing your views and impressions. Dave Gray has been back with the National League of Families and met with Ambassador Peterson. If I can keep Gray to 20 minutes - not the easiest thing to do - I plan to put him on the program for Saturday morning. Phyllis Galanti is another person I'd like to honor and hear from about her quest to get our men returned.