

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

THE VIETNAM CENTER

Box 41045 / Lubbock, Texas 79409 - 1045 / (806) 742-3742, 742-8663 / Fax: (806) 742-8664 / E-Mail vietnam.center@ttu.edu

May 12, 1998

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.
1000 Wilson Blvd., Suite 3105
Arlington, VA 22209-3901

*(For) in cc book to you
6/5/98*

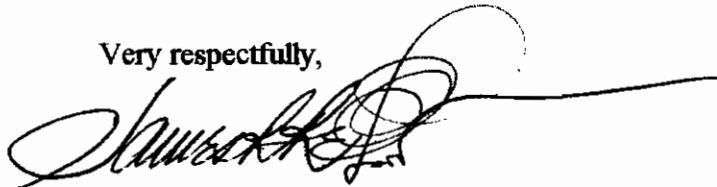
Dear Admiral:

I take this opportunity to forward for your information a copy of a recent letter to Congressman Larry Combest.

We believe that Colonel Donlon's keynote speech will be of some interest to the general public; therefore, we have taken the opportunity of the banquet for the June conference to invite a number of our supporters in the local community, local and state government and Congressman Combest and his wife to attend. I will preface the keynote speech with individual recognition of any of our principal supporters who might be in the audience. And, of course, I would like to go out of the way to ensure that I have introduced each of them to you. As the time approaches, I will provide you with their names, etc. */ you*

On another conference-related topic, the high school teachers require a certificate from the conference to indicate that they have attended. It is part of their professional development to have certification of attendance at conference/workshops like the one we are organizing. With your permission, I will include a space for your signature on the certificates. I feel certain the high school teachers would very much appreciate this recognition. */ Jim great*

Very respectfully,



James R. Reckner
Director

encl: Letter to Congressman Combest

VIETNAM CENTER NATIONAL COUNCIL
Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (RET), Chairman
General William C. Westmoreland
Hon. William P. Bundy, Hon. Bui Diem, Professor Douglas Pike

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THE VIETNAM ARCHIVE
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas 79409-1041 (806) 742-9010
Fax: (806) 742-0496
E-Mail lijag@lib.ttu.edu

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April 24, 1998

The Hon. Larry Combest
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Fax: (202) 225-9615

Dear Mr. Combest:

It has been some time since I have sent you an update of our project at Texas Tech, and so wish to do so at this point.

June Conference for High School Teachers. First, I would like to begin by inviting you to attend the banquet for our June conference for high school teachers. This will be a significant conference, with attendance by high school teachers from throughout Texas. Dr. Mike Moses very kindly provided us with mailing labels for over 500 high schools in Texas and we have done a direct mailing to every one. Turnout for the conference will be well over 100 high school teachers, and we have assembled a stellar slate of speakers.

At the conference banquet, the keynote speaker will be Colonel Roger Donlon, USA (Ret), the executive director of the Westmoreland Scholars Foundation. Colonel Donlon was the recipient of the first Congressional Medal of Honor awarded for actions in Vietnam. I have specifically selected him as keynote speaker so our high school teachers will take away from the conference strong, positive impressions about the men who served in Vietnam. I believe America's policies in Vietnam are legitimate topics for critical examination, but I sincerely wish our teachers to divorce the men who actually fought from the policies that put them in Vietnam. In this way, I hope we will help to destroy the stereotypical vision of Vietnam vets as drugged-up marginal members of our society.

If you happen to be in Lubbock on the evening of Friday, June 12, we would be very honored if you would precede the keynote speaker. It would be an ideal opportunity for you to address a very special audience, and an ideal opportunity for us at the Vietnam Center to recognize your continuing support of our endeavor.

Our Vietnam Initiative. During our recently completed conference, "Vietnam in Asia," we had a party of four scholars from Vietnam whose participation was made possible by the very generous financial support of Mr. "dub" Rushing. Their presence has acted as a catalyst for positive action in developing closer relations with Vietnam.

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Chancellor Montford and President Haragan both have indicated that they will make a two week trip to Vietnam in the summer of 1999. The Vietnamese have responded by promising to organize meetings with the Prime Minister or Vice Prime Minister of Vietnam, along with Ministers of Education and Health. In the meantime, we have agreed to establish a "special relationship" between the history departments of Texas Tech University and Vietnam National University, both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City campuses. Our immediate goal here will be to develop student and faculty exchanges. In fact, our first three students, with an escort of The Vietnam Center's Vietnamese Language Specialist, Mr. Khanh Le, leave for Vietnam in mid-May.

At another level, the Vietnamese report that the standard American history text in Vietnamese universities is a Vietnamese translation of a mid-60s Soviet rendition of American history. The mind boggles at what that text might contain! My idea here is that we will seek funding --possibly from USAID via Mrs. Sally Shelton-Colby-- to translate one of our current American history texts and print several thousand copies for circulation to Vietnamese universities. The impact of such a project would be immediate, in that it would influence, in a positive way, the attitudes of the younger generation of Vietnamese students who, after all, were born after the war was over.

Additionally, we have held some discussions about developing a program to assist Vietnam with public health programs. Our thrust here has been to propose that our Health Sciences Center would provide training for those who would train others in the methods of Public Health. Some of this training might occur at Texas Tech, but much of it should occur in the villages where the services ultimately must be rendered.

July Visit to Vietnam. I am slated to attend a conference in Hanoi in July, and will have a slate of appointments including meetings with the presidents of various universities and also with the Minister of Health, to explore further the ways in which The Vietnam Center at Texas Tech might be able to assist them.

All of the efforts outlined above, I believe, will constitute positive contributions to the further development of relations between our two countries. I believe, too, that this initiative will be very helpful for some American Vietnam vets as they continue to deal with their own issues relating to Vietnam.

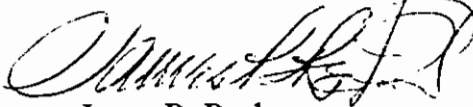
Virtual Vietnam Archive. Within the next week or two we will receive a nicely printed, sixty-page guide to the holdings of The Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech. I believe this publication will be of some assistance in the effort to secure funding for the digitization of our archive, as it will provide a good, solid listing of the materials we actually hold.

Third Triennial Vietnam Symposium (15 - 17 April 1999). It is difficult to believe, but next year's symposium will be our tenth anniversary event. We will be pulling out all stops for this event. We have now arranged for a concurrent visit of the Moving Vietnam Wall to Texas Tech, and will have appropriate ceremonies to open that visit on the evening of Wednesday, 14 April 1999. Once again, if you happen to be on hand, or could possibly be in Lubbock at that time, we would be honored if you would take part in

that ceremony. Chancellor Montford has agreed to emcee the event, and Admiral Zumwalt has agreed to deliver the principal address.

Well, sir, I have burdened you perhaps with too much information about our project. In the very near future we will have the second Texas Tech edition of *Indochina Chronology*, an updated Vietnam Center newsletter, and our first annual guide to the Vietnam Archive available for circulation. We will ensure that your office receives ample copies of each, and further would welcome any suggestions concerning others in Washington to whom you would recommend circulating these materials.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James R. Reckner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

James R. Reckner
Director

encl: Agenda for June conference

Conference for High School Teachers
The Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University
12-13 June 1998
(Tentative Program as of May 7, 1998 - Subject to Change)

Thursday, June 11, 1998

- 7:00 p.m. Reception in Rotunda, Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library
- 7:45 p.m. Welcoming remarks
- 8:00 p.m. Tour of Vietnam Archive

Friday, June 12, 1998

- 8:00 a.m. Opening Remarks: James R. Reckner, The Vietnam Center
- 8:15 a.m. Session 1: "Vietnam's Political Culture: Basic Elements for High School Students," Douglas Pike, The Vietnam Center
- 9:15 a.m. Session 2: "A Common Sorrow: Teaching the American Vietnamese War," David Berman, University of Pittsburgh
- 10:15 a.m. Coffee Break
- 10:30 a.m. Session 3: "The Union High School Program," Paul Davis, Union High School, Union, SC, and Joe Dunn, Converse College, Spartanburg, SC
- Noon Lunch. Luncheon speaker: Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.
- 1:00 p.m. Session 4: "Using the World Wide Web in Courses Addressing the Vietnam War," Marc J. Gilbert, North Georgia College
- 2:45 p.m. Coffee Break
- 3:00 p.m. Session 5A: "Teaching the Air War." Dr. John Guilmartin, Ohio State University
- 3:00 p.m. Session 5B: Optional work session on computers in International Cultural Center's computer library. Marc J. Gilbert, North Georgia College
- 7:00 p.m. Reception at International Cultural Center
- 8:00 p.m. Banquet at International Cultural Center
- 8:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker: Colonel Roger Donlon, USA (Ret), Executive Director, Westmoreland Scholarship Foundation, Medal of Honor Winner

Saturday, June 13, 1998

- 8:00 a.m. Session 6: "A Critical Skills Approach to Teaching: Using Documents and Oral History to Teach the History of the Vietnam Conflict," Steve Potts, Hibbing Community College & Mankato State University, MN
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee Break
- 10:15 a.m. Session 7: "Recent Workshop Experience," Jane Hamilton-Merritt, Independent Scholar
- Noon Lunch. Luncheon speaker: To be announced
- 1:00 p.m. Session 8: Opening Remarks: "Keeping a Promise", Bob Matthews, "Why Teach Vietnam – Use of Primary sources and technology in the classroom", Bob Matthews, SAS Institute, "The things they carried – display and use of The changing military gear used in Vietnam", Mike Lynch, N.C.V.V.I., "Use of the community as an historical", Lindy Poling-Millbrook HS, Bridge Back to teaching Vietnam-the "linkage key", Joe Harsch - N.C.V.V.I.
(Separate agenda)
- 3:00 p.m. Coffee Break
- 3:15 p.m. Session 9: "Teaching Military Aspects of the Vietnam War," Earl H. Tilford, Strategic Studies Institute, US Army War College
- 8:00 p.m. Dinner at County Line Restaurant

Sunday, June 14 1998

- 5:00 a.m. (Until all needs met) Two Texas Tech vans available at conference Hotel to assist conference participants to airport