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of The Vietnam Center

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NOVEMBER 1999 • VOLUME 6 ISSUE 3

ADMIRAL ELMO R. ZUMWALT III

In 1989, shortly after Texas Tech's Board of Regents established the Vietnam Center, I went to visit Admiral Zumwalt at his Arlington office, to "recruit" him to be the Chairman of the Center's National Council. Now, I must confess to a certain apprehension as I approached the Admiral for the first time. I had had little experience at "recruiting" four-star Admirals.

After briefing the Admiral on what we planned to do, he responded, "OK, Reckner, you can use my name, but let me tell you that I won't have any time to come down to Texas." And so I retreated, happy to have at least gotten his name attached to our effort. As the program developed, we carefully kept the Admiral advised of what we were doing, and after a few years, I suspect his curiosity got the best of him and in 1993 he visited Lubbock. I am pleased to report that since that initial visit, Admiral Zumwalt hasn't missed any of our conferences and symposia, and, indeed, has found other



Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (Ret)
Chief of Naval Operations, 1970-1974

occasions when he had time to visit Texas Tech. Somewhere along the line, he became a "Techsan". And his strong and influential support of our project has been exceedingly important. In fact, without it, the Vietnam project at Texas Tech would not have enjoyed the success it has.

With that background, then, it is with regret that I have to advise you that the Admiral in recent weeks has been gravely ill. On October 13 [Navy Birthday], the Admiral underwent surgery for removal of a cancerous mesothelioma tumor, which also involved the removal of his left lung. The weeks and months ahead promise to be a time of gradual recovery, but the road back to good health will be long, and I suspect, difficult.

For all of you who have come to know the Admiral at our annual meetings, and for all others of good will, I hope you will join me in encouraging the Admiral in his time of medical challenge. Following is a small editorial piece I wrote on the occasion of the Admiral's illness.

-- Jim Reckner



AMERICA'S VIETNAM ADMIRAL

Tom Brokaw has written about America's great World War II generation. Many Americans have been honored to know some of those great men and women. Some men of that generation—born around 1915 or 1920—chose to make service to our nation their career. They came of age during World War II, served in Korea, and in the final years of their service found themselves in a new and different sort of war in Vietnam. These events were but the principal markers in their long careers.

Almost forgotten by most Americans are other events which remain vivid to the men and women of our military—skirmishes in a global struggle we knew as the Cold War: tense duty on the Demilitarized Zone in Korea; the Berlin Airlift; Quemoy and Matsu and the Formosa Straits Patrol; the Cuban Missile Crisis; and a dozen other flash points around the world. These men and women were the steadfast guardians of America's global frontiers throughout the long years of our confrontation with the Soviet Union.

Today, one of the great men of that generation is facing the most serious medical challenge of his life. Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., U.S. Navy (Retired), who attained national prominence as the commander of U.S. Naval Forces in Vietnam (1968-1970) and then as the youngest and arguably the most innovative chief of naval operations (1970-1974) is recovering from major surgery.

A great many Americans today owe a remarkable debt of gratitude to Adm.

Zumwalt. It was he who, despite opposition within the Navy and without, established greater opportunities for women and racial minorities in the service. The Navy, of course, is a very conservative outfit—always was. And the admiral's efforts, as welcome as a breath of fresh air to many, earned the enmity of those opposed to such change. The admiral is fond of saying that during his tenure as chief of naval operations he developed a long list of friends and a long list of enemies, and that he is proud of both lists.

Since his retirement in 1974, the admiral has been exceedingly active in a wide range of civic activities. He created and is chairman of the National Marrow Donor Program. He also chairs the Ethics and Public Policy Center, the Agent Orange Coordinating Council, Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped, and many other worthy causes. In recognition of his unstinting service, on Jan. 15, 1998, Adm. Zumwalt was awarded the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

But his most enduring commitment has been to the welfare of the men and women who served our country in Vietnam. He has been tireless in defending those suffering the ill effects of Agent Orange used in Vietnam, and in demanding that the government care for them in an appropriate way. More than any other of the many senior officers who served in Vietnam, he has unswervingly stood up for Vietnam veterans. It was a simple matter to him; he speaks often of the responsibil-

ity he feels all senior officers share toward the men they commanded in combat.

The admiral didn't undertake these many endeavors to earn public adulation. He simply is of that generation which recognized responsibility and was ever ready to accept it and act upon it. Nevertheless, in the process he has earned the deep respect of the many men and women who served in Vietnam, and from many other Americans.

America's most noteworthy living sailor now faces his greatest challenge. He hasn't asked any of us to come to his assistance. He wouldn't do that. He is a "giver" and not a "taker." But that doesn't mean that Americans of good will—and particularly his fellow comrades-in-arms—cannot at least remember him in his time of trial. Each of you who read this column might send him a card a small token of remembrance, a note to let him know that during his personal storm Americans remember. And appreciate.

Cards can be sent to:

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.
1000 Wilson Boulevard,
Suite 3105
Arlington, VA. 22209

Alternatively, e-mail messages can be sent to toerzumwalt@starpower.net



l to r. Vice Admiral & Mrs. Emmitt H. Tidd and Mrs. & Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt



Admiral Zumwalt emphasizes a point at a Texas Tech Conference. (Steve Maxner in background)



Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt

NEW VIETNAM CENTER AND ARCHIVE STAFF

The Vietnam Center is pleased to announce the following additions to its staff:



Dr. Leslie J. Cullen, Vietnam Center Administrator: a native of Central Texas, Dr. Cullen is the son of a Vietnam veteran and is a lifelong military brat who graduated from a DoDDS high school in the United Kingdom before coming to Texas Tech. There he earned his BA, MA, and Ph.D in American History, focusing on military and diplomatic fields. His graduate research examined various aspects of the United States Navy's role in the Vietnam War. He is currently working on a biography of Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr. Dr. Cullen is happiest when he is within striking distance of a baseball diamond.



Stephen F. Maxner, Oral Historian: A native of Massachusetts, Stephen graduated from high school and served for three years in the US Army assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After earning his BA in history at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and receiving a Regular Army commission through ROTC, Steve served for two years with the 3rd Brigade of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Benning, Georgia. He then returned to the University

of North Carolina at Wilmington where he earned his MA in American History. Steve is currently a Ph.D candidate working on his dissertation at Texas Tech University.



Curtis Peoples, Archival Specialist: A native of Plainview, Texas, and the son of a Vietnam veteran, Curtis holds a BA in American History with an emphasis on the Vietnam War from Texas Tech University. He is a recipient of the Ronald E. McNair Scholarship, and is currently a graduate student in the Department of History and a Chancellor's Endowed Fellow at Texas Tech. Curtis' academic focus includes Vietnam, the Vietnamese language, and museum and archival studies. This summer, he spent a month in Vietnam with Chancellor Montford, Dr. Reckner, and the Vietnam Center's Vietnamese language specialist, Khanh Le.

Mr. Cody Waldrop, Medical Projects Officer: A native and lifelong resident of Lubbock, Cody earned a degree in Business Administration from Texas Tech, and is in his final year of an MBA program in Health Organization Management. He has more than seven years experience with hospitals and health care, and will be coordinating with the Vietnam Center and Texas Tech Health Science Center on health care related proj-

ects. His first assignment is the organization of a shipment of donated medical supplies and textbooks to Vietnamese medical schools.



Tanya Jones, Administrative Secretary: A native of San Diego, California and the daughter of a Vietnam medic, Tanya served nine years in the United States Air Force as an electronic sensor systems specialist. She brings to the center a combination of military and clerical experience, and spends her free time caring for her eight dogs and cats and volunteering at the animal shelter.



Alison B. Honig, Assistant to Professor Pike: A native of Los Alamos, New Mexico, and the daughter of a Vietnam veteran, Alison graduated from Texas Tech University in May 1998 with a BA in Russian History. She works with Douglas Pike on the production of the *Indochina Chronology*, and manages his voluminous correspondence. She has an ongoing interest in historical research and writing, and brings to the Center what she calls "my optimistic youth and wonderful sense of humor." Alison has been on staff since October of 1998.

FRIENDS OF THE VIETNAM CENTER MEMBERSHIP

I enclose my check for \$ _____ for an annual membership.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone(s): Home _____ Office _____

Please make check payable to the Texas Tech Foundation, Inc., Attn: Vietnam Center. Contributions to the Vietnam Center are tax deductible as allowed by law. For additional information regarding membership or to donate materials to the Vietnam Archive, please call the Vietnam Center, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-3742 or 742-8663. Mail this form with your check to:

The Vietnam Center
Texas Tech University
Box 41045
Lubbock, Texas 79409-1045

Categories of Memberships

Please check appropriate box.

Individual

- ☐ Individual \$25
- ☐ Patron \$100
- ☐ Benefactor \$500
- ☐ Sustaining Life Member \$5,000 (1,000 per year x5)

Corporate

- ☐ Corporate \$100
- ☐ Corporate Benefactor \$500
- ☐ Sustaining Corporate Sponsor \$5,000 (1,000 per year x5)

AN APPEAL TO VETERANS

The Vietnam Center at Texas Tech is launching an ambitious project through its Archive and Oral History programs. We seek to become the primary depository in the world for the records, letters, diaries, photographs, and other materials of both

individual veterans and veterans' organizations. We have already developed cooperative relationships with the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, the Tan Son Nhut Association, Co Van (Advisors), the Vietnam Veterans Institute, the National

Vietnam Veterans Coalition, and B Troop, 2/17, 101st Airborne Division. If you or your organization is interested in this mutually beneficial program, please contact Dr. Ron Frankum at (806) 742-9010 or via e-mail at livna@ttu.edu.

THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT OF THE VIETNAM ARCHIVE

In September 1999 the Vietnam Center and Archive hired Stephen Maxner to serve as Oral Historian of the Vietnam Archive. It is the mission of the Oral History Project to conduct oral history interviews with as many people who participated in the Vietnam War as possible. This includes Americans, Vietnamese, and people from all of the countries involved in the war. The program is already well underway. In early

October 1999, Ron Frankum and Steve Maxner attended the third reunion of B Troop, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment Association in Las Vegas, Nevada. B Troop was attached to the 101st Airborne Division. During the reunion, Maxner collected seven oral histories from members of the organization and Frankum gave the dinner speech at the annual business meeting. The Association has voted to have the

Vietnam Archive serve as the official repository for its history, documents, and the personal material of its members. If you are interested in being interviewed, please complete the following brief questionnaire and send it to:

The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University,
Box 41041, Lubbock, TX 79409-1041, Attn:
Steve Maxner

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Branch of Service/Government Agency of assignment (please include all): _____

Years of Service: _____

Job Description(s): _____

Units/Agencies of assignment during the Vietnam War (please include dates, places, and positions held): _____

Major programs, events, operations and/or engagements in which you were involved while serving in Vietnam: _____

Rank at discharge/retirement or current status: _____

I am willing to be interviewed in the following venues (please check all that apply):

☐ In person ☐ Over the telephone ☐ Over the Internet ☐ Via e-mail

Please feel free to photocopy this form and give it to others who served in the Vietnam War. For more information about the Oral History Project of the Vietnam Archive, visit our web site at www.lib.ttu.edu/vietnam/OralHistory.htm or call us at (806) 742-9010.

CALL FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS

"THE OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE EXPERIENCE"

MARCH 31-APRIL 1, 2000

The Vietnam Center requests proposals for papers to be presented at a conference on The Overseas Vietnamese Experience, to be held at the International Cultural Center in Lubbock, March 31-April 1, 2000. Topics for papers can

include any topic related to the Overseas Vietnamese experience. Papers representing all points of view are welcome. It is the Vietnam Center's established policy to encourage active participation by graduate students; proposals by them will

receive favorable consideration. Individuals interested in presenting papers are encouraged to submit a one-page outline proposal to Dr. James Reckner at the Vietnam Center.

We encourage papers relating to all aspects of the Overseas Vietnamese Experience; however, we particularly seek papers examining the following themes:

1. Building a new life: issues in the challenges posed in adjustment and acculturation of Overseas Vietnamese.
2. Community building and the politics of Vietnamese communities in host countries.
3. Second-generation Overseas Vietnamese: their role in the community and issues relating to them.
4. Relations between Overseas Vietnamese and their home country.

PLEASE MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS BEFORE MARCH 10, 2000.

Conference Schedule: A detailed conference agenda will be mailed to each registered participant after March 1.

Conference Hotel: Sheraton Four Points Hotel, 505 Avenue Q, Lubbock. Phone: (806) 747-0171. The Vietnam Center has

reserved 50 rooms; however, we urge you to contact the hotel and make your personal reservations as early as possible.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2000 CONFERENCE

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone(s): Home _____ Office _____

Conference Registration \$50.00 Amount: \$ _____

(includes 2 luncheons, reception)

Conference Banquet \$25.00 Amount: \$ _____

West Texas Barbecue Dinner (Apr. 1) \$20.00 Amount: \$ _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

Make check payable to Texas Tech Foundation, Inc., Attn: Vietnam Center
Mail to: Vietnam Center, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409-1045

ARCHIVISTS VISIT VIETNAM

Between July 13 and August 7, 1999, Head Archivist Dr. Ron Frankum, Archival Specialist Curtis Peoples, and Vietnam Center language instructor Khanh Le traveled to Vietnam. Their trip had two primary objectives: The first was to visit as many libraries as possible in Ho Chi Minh City, Can Tho, Hue, and Hanoi. In all, the group toured thirteen libraries in the four

major universities. The group achieved the second objective toward the end of their visit, when Ron Frankum offered a 5-day, 10-seminar course to more than forty librarians and archivists at the Vietnam National University-Hanoi. The course covered such topics as cataloging (MARC, UNIMARC, and Encoded Archival Description), archive standards and practices, conservation and

preservation, the Texas Tech University library technical services, and the role of technology in archives and libraries. Frankum and Khanh Le will return to Vietnam at the end of November to repeat the course for librarians and archivists in Ho Chi Minh City, Hue, and Can Tho.

NEW ACQUISITIONS IN THE VIETNAM ARCHIVE

The Vietnam Archive has acquired nineteen collections since the publication of our last newsletter, including donations to the Co Van collection by Patrick Naughton and Jack Hine Bondurani and one to the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association by William Fitzgerald.

Duiker Collection: The Archive received six boxes of books, documents, and periodicals from Dr. William Duiker, one of the leading scholars on the North Vietnamese perspective during the war. The material is from his library and includes several Vietnamese-language books and research periodicals.

Dr. Joel Halpern, scholar and author of several studies on Laos, has sent the first shipment of materials from his library to the Archive.

The Archive has received 231 boxes

of books, pamphlets, and documents from James Dingeman, noted correspondent and scholar. This collection of materials includes several thousand items on the Vietnam War, military and diplomatic history, politics, and insurgency movements in the 1960s and 1970s, and will greatly enhance the library of the Vietnam Archive.

Barry Brown donated .5 linear feet of letters written to him during his service in Vietnam, in addition to 161 photographs. The Honorable Sally A. Shelton-Colby sent three linear feet of material as an addendum to the collection of Ambassador William Colby, her late husband. This donation includes correspondence and other items relating to his book, *Lost Victory*.

Other collections donated to the

archive include the diary of Robert J. Pringle (1971); the uniform and gear of Marine John Gribble; .5 linear feet of correspondence between Joan Seeman Robinson and artists who have worked on Vietnam War-related material; Charles Shields' manuscripts related to medical issues in Vietnam; and David Egan's information regarding the My Lai incident. Elizabeth Hale has donated a number of Vietnamese artifacts she acquired during her four years in Da Nang as a Nurse Educational Advisor.

The Vietnam Archive has also received a number of books from Can Tho University and the Vietnam National University-General Science Library in Ho Chi Minh City.

HO CHI MINH CITY — TRADITIONAL MUSIC



BOOK EXCHANGE WITH VIETNAMESE UNIVERSITIES

A result of the recent trip to Vietnam by Chancellor John T. Montford and Dr. James Reckner, the book exchange is designed to identify and donate English-language books to Vietnamese universities and their libraries. English-language resources are in great demand in Vietnamese higher educational institutions because these

facilities have limited collections and lack financial resources to supply adequately the needs of their patrons. Our goal is to assist the major Vietnamese universities and thus strengthen the bond between them and Texas Tech University. The Vietnam Center and Archive staff will take full responsibility for the gathering, organizing, and shipping of books. For those

interested in contributing materials, please contact Dr. Ron Frankum at (806) 742-9010, or at livna@ttu.edu. We wish to emphasize that books donated to the Vietnam Archive will not be sent to Vietnam. This collection effort is separate from the Archive collection, and embraces all sorts of university-level texts.

VIETNAM CENTER HOSTS VISITORS

The week of September 20, the Center hosted a visit by Mr. Tran Bach Dang, one of the founding members of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (NLF) and a member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of that organization. Mr. Dang fought with the Viet Minh in World War II, and rose through its ranks in the first Indochina War (1946-1954) against the French. In the second

Indochina War, Dang was the head of the Communist Party of the Saigon-Gia Dinh area, and the commander of the Saigon Front during the 1968 Tet Offensive. Currently he is First Vice Chairman of the Social Sciences Council of Ho Chi Minh City and Chancellor of Hong Bang University. Travelling with Mr. Dang were his daughter, Ms. Tran Hong Anh, his assistant and translator, Mr. Nguyen Van

Quang, and Mr. Nguyen Huu Chau, the son of Nguyen Huu Tho, another founding member of the NLF. During their visit, Mr. Dang and his party met with Texas Tech administrators and visited the Vietnam Center and Archive. Mr. Dang also contributed his oral history to the Archive.

HANOI VIEWS





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