

Friends

of The Vietnam Center

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FEBRUARY 2000 • VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1

ADMIRAL ELMO R. ZUMWALT

NOVEMBER 29, 1920- JANUARY 2, 2000

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., who was hospitalized on 13 October 1999 for treatment of a mesothelioma cancer, passed away on Sunday, 2 January 2000.

On 10 January, close to 2000 people gathered at the U.S. Naval Academy Chapel to celebrate his life. As the USNA organist and the Midshipman Choir provided stirring music, family and friends took their seats in the beautiful church. President and Mrs. Clinton, ambassadors, senators, congressmen, admirals, and generals numbered among the mourners. Representing the Vietnam Center were Center Director James R. Reckner and his wife Middy, Vietnam Center Advisory Board President Phil Price and his wife Victoria, Board Vice President David Shelly and his wife Lindsey, Advisory Board Secretary Mary Ann Harrison, and Vietnam Center Administrator Dr. Les Cullen.

Following scripture readings by the Admiral's grandchildren, Admiral Jay L. Johnson, the Chief of Naval Operations, delivered the first of four eulogies. Referring to "Bud Zumwalt's visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of our sailors," Admiral Johnson recalled a navy laboring under the strains of the Vietnam War, the growing Soviet threat at sea, and unprecedented social change in the United States. The CNO noted that Zumwalt tackled these challenges with "boundless enthusiasm, tireless drive, bold courage, love for sailors, and incredible sense of what needed to be done."



Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt
at Texas Tech, April 1999

President Clinton noted that the last time he visited the Naval Academy Chapel was the funeral of Admiral Arleigh Burke. The President said that while the navy remembers "31-knot Burke" as its spirit, "The Navy will certainly remember that Bud Zumwalt was its conscience." Clinton praised Zumwalt's efforts to change the navy's policies regarding the treatment of and opportunities for women and minorities, and stated that the Admiral's great legacy will be one of reform. "Americans," he said, "could always count on Bud Zumwalt to do the right thing."

The day which dawned misty and grey cleared during the memorial service allowing the funeral procession to pass under a deep blue sky through the heart of the campus, across College Creek, and into the Naval Academy cemetery. Sailors fired nineteen guns at one-minute intervals in salute. Here, near the crest of a hill overlooking the Severn River where he first learned seamanship as a member of the

Class of '43, Admiral Elmo R. "Bud" Zumwalt was laid to rest.

The staff and advisory board of the Vietnam Center and Archive was deeply honored to have had the opportunity to work with, and be represented by, Admiral Zumwalt. He applied the initiative, imagination, and compassion that marked his professional and personal life with equal fervor and style to the mission of the Center. His guiding hand, cheerful encouragement, and steadfast friendship will be greatly missed.

Leslie J. Cullen, Ph.D.

INSIDE: OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE EXPERIENCE CONFERENCE



VIETNAM ARCHIVE ITEMS

Archive Acquisitions

The Archive's holdings continue to grow, with the recent acquisition of more than ten collections. Two that stand out are more than 500 35 mm slides provided by Paul Kunkleman, the historian of B Troop, 2/17 Cavalry Association, 101st Airborne Division, and a collection concerning Dr. Thomas Dooley's visits to West Texas donated by Brian Edwards. The Archive's effort to establish relations with veterans and veterans' organizations is bearing fruit. The Center has been invited to attend several association reunions during 2000, including those of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, Women in Vietnam, the 9th Medical Laboratory, the 9th Engineering Battalion, the O-1 Bird Dogs, and the Combat Tracker (K-9) Team.

Vietnam Book Exchange

The Vietnam Center's book exchange program has exceeded early expectations. The archivists have collected more than 30,000 textbooks and medical journals of all descriptions and are engaged in cataloguing and listing them for approval by Vietnamese customs prior to shipment to Vietnamese

university and medical school libraries. The Vietnam Center is grateful to the many individuals and organizations that have contributed to this book exchange. Without such gracious support such dramatic results would have been impossible.

Vietnam Interactions

Head Archivist Dr. Ron Frankum and Vietnamese Language Specialist Khanh Le visited Vietnam in December, 1999. Dr. Frankum offered archival management courses at Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City and Can Tho University. Severe flooding in Central Vietnam forced cancellation of a planned course at Hue University.

Vietnam Center Medical Projects Officer Cody Waldrop also traveled to Vietnam in December and toured four medical schools and three hospitals to assess the needs of these institutions. Waldrop is currently developing an inventory of medical equipment-ranging from a CAT Scanner to medical journals-that the Vietnam Center will ship to Vietnam later this year.

The Oral History Program

This program-first announced in the last edition of our newsletter-has already received an impressive response. Nearly 40 individuals have expressed an interest in contributing oral histories of their service in Vietnam. Archive staff have started transcribing the seventeen oral histories this new initiative has already gathered. As The Vietnam Archive continues its drive to develop a comprehensive oral history library, it is particularly important that all veterans involved in the Vietnam Center's project-as well as veterans who read this newsletter-contact Steve Maxner at the Archive.

Those who wish to participate in the oral history program may provide their history in person, over the telephone, or via e-mail. Veterans' association reunions-such as those mentioned elsewhere-are also ideal opportunities to contribute. Veterans and veterans' groups may also wish to explore the opportunity to cooperate with the Vietnam Archive in the preservation of their documents, records, letters, photographs, and other memorabilia.

ABBRIVIATED FORMAT: This issue of the newsletter is in abbreviated format, necessary to ensure it reaches readers in time to inform them about the forthcoming conference. Our next edition will revert to the standard, eight-page format.

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

Name _____ Date _____

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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:

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“THE OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE EXPERIENCE”

MARCH 31-APRIL 1, 2000

Plans are now well advanced for this year's conference at Texas Tech University. As with all Vietnam Center conferences, papers representing all points of view are welcome. It is the Vietnam Center's established policy to encourage active participation by graduate students. Should anyone not already listed wish to present a paper, please forward a one page proposal to Dr. Reckner at the Vietnam Center.

We encourage papers relating to all aspects of the Overseas Vietnamese Experience.

The conference will begin with a welcoming reception at The Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the evening of Thursday, 30 March 2000, after which those so desiring will be given a tour of The Vietnam Archive. The conference proper

will open at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, 31 March at the International Cultural Center at Texas Tech. A banquet will be hosted on 31 March, at which the keynote speaker will be Ms. Le Ngan, a senior official of the Illinois Department of Human Services. She served (1980-89) as Executive Director of the Vietnamese Association of Illinois and later as Special Assistant to the Governor of Illinois for Asian American Affairs.

THE FOLLOWING PAPERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PROPOSED:

Records

DeLam Head Cataloguing Department, University of Saskatchewan Libraries, Recorded Information on Overseas Vietnamese Experience: issues in Organization and Use

Arne Frank, UC, Irvine, Documenting the Overseas Vietnamese Experience: The Southeast Asian Archive of the University of California, Irvine Libraries

Language

Dr. Phan Van Giang, Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia, "The Experience of Teaching Vietnamese Language in Australia"

US-Vietnamese Relations

Tan Dau Chan, Doctoral Candidate, UC Santa Cruz, "US-VN Relations and How Vietnamese-Americans Can Contribute to the Mutual Interest of Both Nations"

Caroline K.L. Verner, Doctoral Candidate at UC Berkeley, "Transnational Images between Vietnamese American community and Vietnam"

Vietnamese American Community in Houston

Thanh Ho, University of Houston, "Building a New Life: Profile of the Vietnamese Community in Houston, Texas"

Boi Vu, University of Houston, "Political History of Houston's Vietnamese Community"

Viet Kieu Politics

Dr. Christian Cooley, UC, Irvine, "Viet Kieu politics: Its form and with Jeff Brody and Pham X. Quang, 2nd Lt. Trinh Dinh, USMC, "Democratization of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam"

Vietnamese American Community

Long S. Lu, Doctoral Candidate, University of Houston, "Building Democratic Values: Community Building and the Politics of Vietnamese Communities in Host Countries"

Vu Hong Phat, Doctoral Candidate in History, Cornell University, "What's in a Name? Locating the Theoretical, Practical and Political in the Label 'Vietnamese American"

Dang Nguyen, Doctoral candidate in clinical psychology, "Vietnamese traumatic experiences, psychological and emotional adjustment in the US and acculturation process"

Dr. Phu Dinh Hoang, "Attitudes of Southeast Asian Immigrant Students toward Counseling"

Dr. Minh Quang Dao, Professor of Economics, Eastern Illinois University, "Demographic Characteristics and Living Arrangements of Elderly Vietnamese Immigrants Living in the US"

Vietnamese Outside the United States

Tr. Thuy Duong, Nguyen, Victoria University, Wellington, NZ, "Relations between overseas Vietnamese and their home country"

Lam Ngan Rojas, Institute of Linguistics and Anthropology, Leiden, The Netherlands, "Vietnamese Experience in the Netherlands"

Birte A. Bachim Gedecke, University of Goettingen, Germany, "The Vietnamese Experience & Vietnamese Culture in Germany"

R. Peter Hansen, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, "Evolution of the Vietnamese Catholic Community in Australia"

Miscellaneous

Dr. Antonio Nachbar, President, My Tho and Mountaineer, Inc, "Vietnam Since the War: A Photographic Essay"

Dr. Jeff Brody, California State University, Fullerton, "A Day in the Life of Little Saigon", presentation relating to the photographic exhibition at Texas Tech International Cultural Center

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 (includes 2 luncheons, reception) \$50.00 Amount: \$ _____

Conference Banquet \$25.00 Amount: \$ _____

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

Total Amount: \$ _____

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SAIGON MARKET, AUGUST 1999

