



FRIENDS OF THE VIETNAM CENTER



Conference attendee Jack Prindiville poses a question to presenters at the fall 2006 Intelligence in the Vietnam War Conference co-hosted by The Vietnam Center and the CIA Center for the Study of Intelligence. The conference spanned two days and was host to over 120 visitors.

Vietnam Center Co-hosts Intelligence Conference

By Stephen Maxner, Ph.D.

On October 20 and 21, 2006, more than 120 visitors descended on Lubbock, Texas, to attend a conference on Intelligence in the Vietnam War. Co-hosted by the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University and the CIA Center for the Study of Intelligence (CSI), the conference featured nearly thirty presentations on numerous topics related to intelligence operations and activities in Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia,

the United States, China, and the Soviet Union.

One of the luncheon speakers, Rene Defourneaux, spoke of his experiences as a member of the OSS DEER team that parachuted into Vietnam in 1945. His entertaining and illuminating discussion provided glimpses into the earliest US intelligence operations in Vietnam as he recalled his teams' meetings with Ho Chi Minh and Vo Nguyen Giap during the pivotal weeks and months that culminated with the Vietnamese Declaration of

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Vietnam for the Ages

By U.S. Senator John Cornyn

As we work to address current national challenges, there is no better guide than history. Every issue today appears new or unique or unprecedented, but there is always a relevant episode in the past that can serve as a guide, or a learning experience. Conditions in the world may change, but the nature of human beings remains constant.

My generation grew up in the midst of the Vietnam War. Our outlook was shaped in part by the political and social upheavals generated by your involvement in Southeast Asia. It was a most turbulent time in the American experience.

I remain extremely proud of, and grateful to, the three million Americans who fought in Vietnam. Some 58,000 were killed, including more than 3,400 Texans.

As we confront terrorists today in our current global challenge, including Iraq, it's important to learn everything possible about our Vietnam experience. How can we avoid mistakes we made in Vietnam?

More than 30 years after Vietnam fell, it's time for serious historians to take over the study of that experience. The most ambitious and significant effort is occurring at Texas Tech University, under leadership of Dr. James Reckner, a Vietnam veteran and current Tech history professor.

Working cooperatively with local Vietnam veterans in Lubbock, the Texas Tech administration has created the Vietnam Project to collect original source material, encourage scholarly research, and educate students and public about the war and its lessons.

The Project has already amassed an impressive collection of material, in some ways more comprehensive than the Library of Congress on this subject. It includes 11,000 linear feet of documents, eight million pages of manuscript materials, 12 million pages on microfilm, some 72,000 photographs and slides,

about 80,000 books, 15,000 periodicals and newsletters, and more than 3,000 audiotapes, videotapes and CDs. Some 2.5 million pages have already been digitized for online viewing.

The collection also ranges from restored helicopters—including a Huey and a Cobra that saw action in Vietnam—to letters home from a soldier to his mother in Slaton, Texas. The project's oral history effort has recruited 1,700 participants from all 50 states and 10 countries, including Vietnam. Many recordings are being made at Vietnam veteran reunions across the country.

The university has signed seven cooperation agreements with universities in

“We now welcome home our volunteer soldiers with open arms, great pride and a deep appreciation for their sacrifices.”

Vietnam, so that education and research efforts will be far-reaching and comprehensive.

Texas Tech has made a serious commitment to the project. Tech regents have allocated 12 acres for a new facility, and plans call for \$70 million, 191,000-square-foot headquarters building, including a world-class museum that would look at the Vietnam War from all points of view.

The plans include provisions for Vietnam veteran reunions in the new facility, as well as hosting of national and international conferences.

Dr. Reckner conceived the idea for this project while visiting Gettysburg and seeing a list of names on a monument to Pennsylvania soldiers who died in the 1863 battle.

“The names meant little to me, even though I was born and raised in the same state. I could not identify with them; the monument would not tell me their story,” Dr. Reckner said.

“I realized that 100 years from now,

the names on the wall of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington may not mean much to people, even though for those of us who served in Vietnam, the Wall is an intensely emotional reminder of our comrades in arms who did not return from the war,” Dr. Reckner says. His idea was to record and preserve the stories of Vietnam survivors, including their memories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

We can hope that one lesson of Vietnam has already been learned well. When men and women returned from the jungles of Southeast Asia, they were often vilified and mistreated by opponents of the war. Instead of targeting their opposition appropriately on our civilian leadership, many war opponents took out their frustrations on those who had done their duty.

Happily, conditions are different today. Even most harsh opponents of our involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq are careful to underscore their support for the men and women who serve our country abroad. We now welcome home our volunteer soldiers with open arms, great pride and a deep appreciation for their sacrifices.

There is far more to be learned from our Vietnam experience. I'm proud that Texas Tech is providing a leadership role, creating a national treasure in educating the world about the Vietnam conflict. It will honor the service of our Vietnam veterans and guide us as we face future challenges. ★

Sen. Cornyn is a member of the following Senate Committees: Armed Services, Judiciary, Budget, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and Joint Economic. He is the chairman of the subcommittees on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship and Emerging Threats and Capabilities. Cornyn served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice and Bexar County District Judge.

For Sen. Cornyn's previous Texas Times columns: www.cornyn.senate.gov/column



2006 Conference continued

Various photos from the conference taken by Victoria Lovelady and Humberto Martinez

Independence and the outbreak of war between the French and Vietnamese.

The banquet speaker, Major General Oleg Kalugin, discussed his experiences as a KGB officer and the acting chief of the Soviet residency in Washington, DC, from 1965 through 1970. MG Kalugin's polished presentation offered remarkable insight into the nature of Soviet intelligence operations going back to the 1930s. Focusing on a “soft-sell” approach, Kalugin told the audience that the Soviet Union relied on the ideological affinity of many intellectuals in the United States in academia and in the media and entertainment industries including well-respected Nobel Laureates and countless others. According to Kalugin, he and his predecessors thought it better to foster long-term “friendships” with such influential people so that they could help the missions of communism from within the United States.

Dr. Robert Kodosky provided our sec-

ond luncheon presentation and he focused on Psychological Operations – a topic all too often overlooked and misunderstood as a component of intelligence and military operations. Kodosky examined some of the historical antecedents to Vietnam War PSYOP and concluded by comparing those historical experiences with similar operations today. We share his hope that the military and civilian leadership will learn the lessons of PSYOP as a means of saving lives by winning on the battlefield through the minds of America's opponents.

The two days of general presentations examined important and controversial aspects of American Intelligence operations in Southeast Asia. Topics included the Phoenix program, the Secret War in Laos, inter-agency intelligence disputes, the role of the United States in the overthrow of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem, rural pacification in South Vietnam, and many other impor-

tant topics.

A highlight of the conference was the release by the CIA of a newly declassified study that examines rural pacification in South Vietnam. Written by Thomas Ahern of the Center for the Study of Intelligence, we will digitize this important study and make it available online in early 2007.

The Vietnam Center thanks David Robarge and Woodrow Kuhns of the CSI for their dedication and hard work in co-hosting this event. We also greatly appreciate the generous contributions of all of the presenters and session chairs who made this conference a stellar event.

Video recordings of the presentations are already available online at <http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/virtual-archive/redirects/conference2006fall.htm>. Additionally, the Vietnam Center and CSI are working together to produce the published proceedings from the conference. ★

Dr. Keith Taylor to be keynote speaker at March 2007 Conference

The Vietnam Center is pleased to announce that Dr. Keith Taylor of Cornell University will be the keynote speaker at the March 2007 Vietnam Conference on the impact of culture on the Vietnam War. He will discuss, “Collateral Cultures: Wartime Congruences, Differences, and Indifferences”.

The Vietnam Center 2007 Annual Conference will be held on March 23 and 24, 2007, at the Holiday Inn Park Plaza in Lubbock, TX. The Vietnam Center invites papers as well as complete panel proposals that examine the interplay between US, Vietnamese, and other participant nations' cultures for the en-

tire period of US diplomatic and military activity in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. We also encourage paper submissions that discuss more nuanced topics to include internal ethnic, religious, and racial conflicts within Vietnam, the U.S., and Southeast Asia as well as in military, government, and civilian agencies and organizations. If you would like to contribute to this conference, please submit a one page proposal along with your resume or CV to Steve Maxner, Deputy Director for the Vietnam Center at steve.maxner@ttu.edu. ★

JOURNEY TO VIETNAM

Scholarship Honoring Lubbock Native Helps TTU Students Travel to Vietnam

By Stephen Maxner, Ph.D.

The Vietnam Center is proud to be the home of the Lee Roy Herron Scholarship. Lee Roy Herron graduated from Lubbock High School and Texas Tech University and went to serve in Vietnam as an officer in the US Marine Corps in late 1968. Killed in action in February 1969, Lee Roy received the Navy Cross posthumously for his courageous leadership in a battle that resulted in the destruction of a major NVA bunker complex in the A Shau Valley. Created in his honor by his classmates from Lubbock High School, the Lee Roy Herron Scholarship allows the Vietnam Center to provide funding to Texas Tech students so that they may travel to Vietnam and Southeast Asia in order to gain a greater understanding of the Vietnam War and the rich culture and heritage of the region.

The most recent student trip to Vietnam took place in July and August 2006. Mr. Steve Maxner, Mr. Khanh Le, and Ms. DaNita Buckley of the Vietnam Center along with Dr. Ron Milam of the History Department escorted a group of seven undergraduate and graduate students from Texas Tech. For three weeks, they traveled throughout Vietnam and Cambodia, and spent two days in Bangkok, Thailand.

Vietnam Center trips to Southeast Asia are notoriously fast-paced. We strive to make sure that the students who receive

these scholarships experience as much as possible while traveling and we spend nearly every moment visiting landmarks and engaging in educational activities. While the pace can be exhausting, it is equally rewarding and every student returns to the United States with a far deeper appreciation of Vietnam and



Vietnamese students at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Ho Chi Minh City spent several hours meeting with Chris Trobridge and his fellow graduate students visiting from Texas Tech.

Southeast Asia.

The last trip started in Hanoi where the students visited many sites of history and culture. This included a tour of the Temple of Literature, the 11th Century complex dedicated to Confucius and site of the first university in Vietnam founded in 1076. The Temple becomes a pilgrimage for students throughout Vietnam where they burn incense and pray as they prepare for exams and other educational rites of passage. The students also visited Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum, the Ho Chi Minh Museum, the People's

Army Museum, the Hoa Lo Prison (Hanoi Hilton) Museum, and other cultural landmarks throughout the city. Visits to museums in Vietnam prove especially instructive on a number of levels, not the least of which is that TTU students witness the use of propaganda in such settings, a consistent experience throughout Vietnam.

A key feature of all Center trips to Vietnam is the personal interaction that occurs while traveling from city to city



From left to right: Brian Robertson, Sean Scribner, Ron Milam, Ph.D., Mandy Schrein, Michael Wolf, Reagan Grau, Chris Trobridge, and DaNita Buckley tour the temple of Angkor Wat.

and the new friendships and relationships generated as a result. Everywhere the TTU delegation traveled, they received warm receptions from government officials, educators, and fellow students. The group received an outstanding briefing from the staff of the US embassy in Hanoi and learned first hand about the work of overseas Foreign Service Officers. They also met with officials at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and gained a much better appreciation of their continuing efforts to locate the remains of Americans still listed as miss-

ing in action from the Vietnam War. The Vietnam Archive continues to play a small role in this by providing JPAC researchers with access to historical research materials on the Virtual Vietnam Archive.

By far, the students' strongest impressions resulted from their personal interactions with fellow Vietnamese and Cambodian college students. TTU students spent an entire day getting to know students from Hue University while touring the Perfume River and the tombs and

temples of the Nguyen Dynasty Emperors. Later that day, the students spent time together at the Citadel. At the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnamese students hosted a reception for the TTU students, which included games, singing, dancing, and time to visit and learn about one another. It is difficult to determine the precise impact of such student exchanges but the open, engaging, and warm manner in which Vietnamese students embraced TTU students provided an invaluable and powerful experience for everyone. TTU

students can learn much from materials in our libraries and archives and in the lecture halls of Texas Tech. However, the importance of the cultural and social experiences they enjoy by visiting Vietnam and Cambodia and meeting the people of those countries is immeasurable as it enriches their practical knowledge and understanding as they continue to develop as students and as American citizens after they return to Lubbock.

In Cambodia, Tech students visited



Texas Tech graduate student Michael Wolf performs a traditional Vietnamese dance with a student from the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Ho Chi Minh City.

the infamous "Killing Fields" where they toured Cheong Ek and the Bone Pagoda that contains thousands of human skulls - the sad legacy of the genocide committed by the Pol Pot regime from 1975 to 1979. While on the tour, our guide recounted how she had lost both of her parents and all of her siblings during those traumatic years. They also visited the Toul Sleng Prison where the Khmer Rouge brutally tortured and murdered more than 17,000 fellow Cambodians and other nationals. The delegation then took a hydrofoil from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap, accom-

panied by two students from the Royal University. These two students joined us as we toured the remarkable ancient ruins at Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom.

The trip also provided an opportunity for us to distribute scholarships for the Vietnam Center's Vietnamese and Cambodian student scholarship programs. In Can Tho, Vietnam, and in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the Vietnam Center provided scholarships of \$100 and \$125 to students in those respective universities.

Remarkably, this modest sum is enough to cover tuition and fees for a year in Vietnam and is enough to cover living expenses for a year in Cambodia. The Vice Rector in Can Tho put this into very basic economic terms for his students by reminding them that it would require a family to harvest rice from approximately five hectares (more than twelve acres) in order to produce \$100 in profit. Certainly, this lesson in the value of such a modest sum proved instructive for the TTU students present at the scholarship award ceremony as

well.

The Lee Roy Herron Scholarship is an essential part of the Vietnam Center's educational outreach. All of us who participate in this program are exceedingly thankful to the founders and many contributors to this wonderful scholarship as it honors one of Lubbock's native sons by providing invaluable life experiences for Texas Tech students. ★

If you would like to contribute to the Lee Roy Herron Scholarship or to the Vietnamese or Cambodian Student Scholarships, please contact the Vietnam Center at 806-742-3742.

Oral History Project Update

By **Richard Verrone, Ph.D.** and **Laura M. Calkins, Ph.D.**

The fall of 2006 has been a typically busy time for the Vietnam Archive's Oral History Project (OHP). Our effort to collect the voices of those who were somehow touched by the Vietnam War continues unabated. Since you received the Summer 2006 newsletter, we have had the honor and privilege to spend literally hundreds of hours interviewing individuals from diverse backgrounds and have continued our effort to make all of the interviews in the collection available to patrons at the Archive itself and online through the Virtual Vietnam Archive. The OHP has now completed over 550 interviews and has nearly 2,200 total participants.

Some of the interesting individuals we have interviewed in recent months include Gerald LaTour, USA, who served as Assistant Army Attaché, US Embassy, Vientiane, Laos (1965), G-2 Air, 25th Infantry Division HQ in Cu Chi (1966-67) and as Senior Army Artillery Adviser to Division Artillery Co., 5th ARVN Division at Lai Khe (1970-71); Robert Shippen, USA, a Special Forces Medic (1967-68) who served with the 5th Special Forces Group (ABN) and saw action with SF teams and MACV-SOG units in I Corps; Phil Thomas, who worked for the US Information Agency and whose postings included Burma, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, where he served as a psychological operations adviser in I Corps, 1965-67; COL Barry Zorthian, USMC, a World War II veteran who worked at Voice of America (1947-61), with the U.S. Foreign Service in India, (1961-64), and in Vietnam as Head of the Joint U.S. Public Affairs

Office in Saigon from 1964 until 1968; LGEN Richard E. Carey, USMC, who directed Marine Corps aviators' participation in the evacuation of Saigon in April 1975; Sedgwick Tourison USA, who served in Vietnam as a cryptanalyst (1961-63) and Chief of the Intelligence Division of the US Army Engineer Center and School at Ft Belvoir, VA (1965-67); and Rene J. Defourneaux, USA Intelligence (1942-65), U.S. OSS (1943-1946) and CIA (1947-65), who was dropped behind Japanese lines in 1945 to

train Viet Minh guerilla groups headed by Ho Chi Minh and Vo Nguyen Giap.

In addition to conducting interviews, we are involved with other aspects of the Archive and are active in the local and national academic community. Some of our recent activities include an April trip Laura made to give an invited presentation at the National Security Agency and National Cryptological Museum in Fort Meade, MD, entitled "Broadcast Monitoring as a Counter-Insurgency Tool: The First Indochina War," and an August trip Richard made to the (U.S. Army) First Division Museum in Wheaton, IL, to assist the COL Robert R. McCormick

Research Center in formalizing its Oral History Project. In October Richard presented a paper entitled "Crossing Generations in the Air: Oral History, Multi-War Pilots in Vietnam, and How Hindsight Works for the Future," at the Oral History Association's annual conference held this year in Little Rock, AK.

Representing the Archive around the country, putting a 'face with the place,' is another aspect of our jobs. Throughout 2006 Richard has traveled to eight Vietnam veteran and civilian reunions around the country to give presentations on the Vietnam Center and Archive, to spend time with the attendees and their families, and to deliver several banquet keynote addresses. In addition to these activities, we also teach courses and guest lecture on the TTU campus and present Oral History Workshops to visiting student and teacher groups.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank a departing friend, Jessica Harrell, who has worked with the OHP for over two years as a Transcriptionist and Administrative Assistant. Jessica is graduating from Texas Tech in December with a BS in Biology. While with us she performed her job duties in a superior manner and became that all-important cog in the machine that helped power the OHP. We will greatly miss her and wish her well on her life's journey. ★

For more information about the Oral History Project, please visit us at www.vietnam.ttu.edu/oralhistory or email us at vaoralhistory@ttu.edu.



Rene J. Defourneaux, left and Richard Verrone, Ph.D., right, pose together at the 2006 Intelligence Conference. Defourneaux spent significant time in intelligence operations in France, Laos and India.

Additions To The Oral History Project August-November 2006

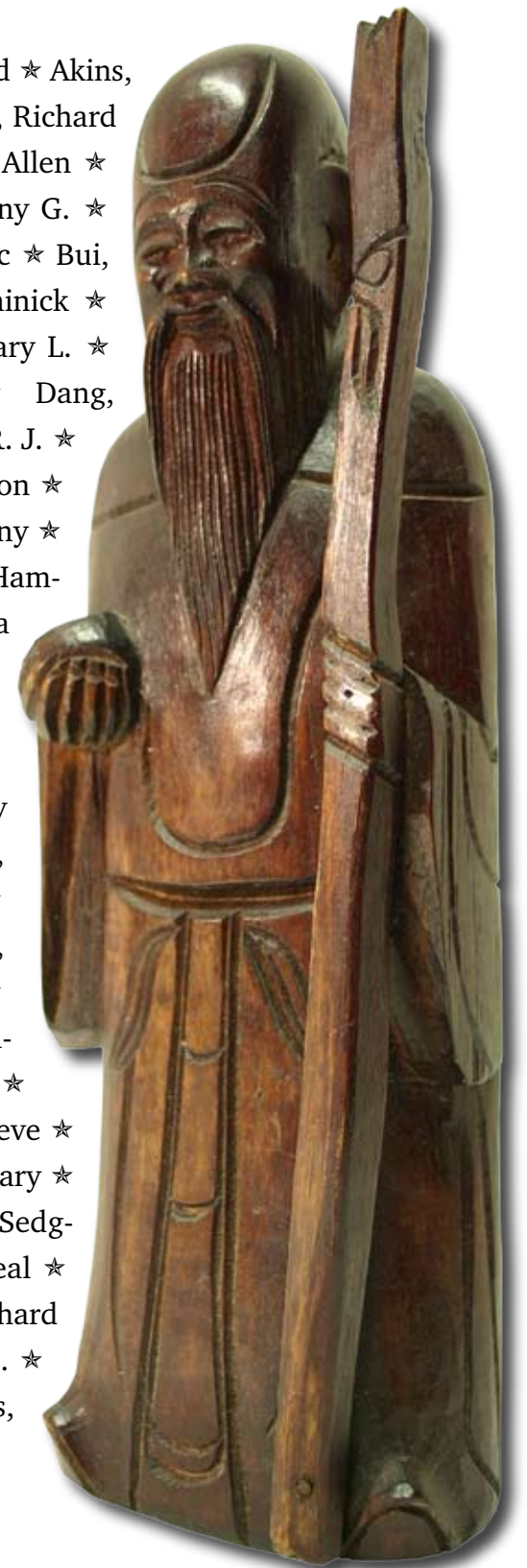
Gerald LaTour, USA
Phillip Thomas, USIA
Richard Carey, USMC
Sedgwick Tourison, USA
Cornelius Carmody, USN
Dorothy Fall, Civilian
Jerry Wages, USN
William Brown, USN
D. Pat Kelly, USAF
Stanley F. Cherrie, USA

Phillip Blanchard, USA
Edward Nixon, Civilian
Bill Maddox, USA
Bruce Mobley, USA
A.G. Salazar, USA
Emmett Tidd, USN
Jerry P. Rainey, USA
Charles Gentry, USA
Mike Smith, USN
Cathleen Cardova, USA

Additions To The Archive

173rd Airborne Brigade Association ★ Abraham, Jack ★ Acheson, Ted ★ Akins, John ★ Alley, Bud ★ Anderson, Harold C. ★ Ba, Ly Tong ★ Baird, Richard ★ Barrett, Vernon D. ★ Bell, Roger ★ Bernthal, Ron ★ Binckley, Allen ★ Bloomfield, Dorothy Reese ★ Bong Wright, Jackie ★ Borra, Anthony G. ★ Bowra, Kenneth R. ★ Boyd, Joan K. ★ Braun, Hilmar ★ Bray, Eric ★ Bui, Nancy ★ Burch, Gregory ★ Cammack, Bruce ★ Cirincione, Dominick ★ Coan, Jack ★ Coffman, Jimmy ★ Combs, George J. ★ Conley, Mary L. ★ Cook, Kimberly A. ★ Crawford, William R. ★ Dalley, George W. ★ Dang, Hoi Bach ★ Decker, Peter ★ Defourneaux, Rene J. ★ Del Vecchio, R. J. ★ Detra, Dick ★ Dodge, Faye L. ★ Drucker, Donna J. ★ Durham, Karon ★ Forman, Howell, Jr. ★ Foulke, William ★ Frank, Tim ★ Gleaton, Tony ★ Godfrey, Marie ★ Grau, Reagan ★ Graw, Julius ★ Griffey, Mike ★ Hamilton, Betty Dubose ★ Helm, Glenn ★ Henley, Darryl ★ Herron, Lorea ★ Hull, James L. ★ Janssen, Carl ★ Jestes, Gary D. ★ Johns, Cliff ★ Johnston, Charles ★ Khe Sanh Veterans Association ★ Kinser, Omarie ★ Kirkland, William ★ Kisner, Omarie ★ LeGro, William E. ★ Long, Fran ★ Lopes, Joseph A. ★ Lusk, Jimmie ★ Marshall, Shirley M. ★ Martin, Jerry ★ Maserang, David L. ★ Miller, Ernie ★ Miller, Jane Keil ★ Minh, Bui Cong ★ Mitchell, Larry ★ Morris, Sam ★ Munding, Larry ★ Parkinson, Rick ★ Peoples, Curtis ★ Pickens, Jimmy B. ★ Pinkerton, Richard ★ Polner, Murray ★ Porter, Judy ★ Pribbenow, Merle ★ Pumphrey, Lorene ★ Reinhart, Ralph ★ Rollins, Peter ★ Rosenberg, Joe ★ Saffell, Julia ★ Sampont, Gerald ★ Scahill, Anne ★ Shackleton, Ron ★ Sheppard, Ruth ★ Sherman, Steve ★ Short, Robert G. ★ Sims, Allen W. ★ Singer, Robert F. ★ Smith, Gary ★ Stuckey, Fred ★ Terbush, Donald M. ★ Tidd, Emmett H. ★ Tourison, Sedgwick ★ Tran Cung, Thuy-Tien ★ Tran, Minh Duc ★ Ulevich, Neal ★ Vail, Tim ★ Veigh, Thomas A. ★ Verrone, I. Richard ★ Verrone, Richard Burks ★ Villaverde, Benedicto K. ★ Vogel, Carl ★ Ward, Samuel D. ★ Warren, Welch ★ Wigglesworth, Hope ★ Wilkerson, Joy ★ Williams, Daniel L. ★ Williams, Nevin R. ★

The Vietnam Archive mission is to preserve the history of the American Vietnam experience. We are committed to preserving the record of individuals and providing a greater understanding of their experiences. To do so, the Archive collects the records of veterans, veterans' organizations and scholars of the period as well as other individuals and organizations who share experiences from the war in Vietnam. If you are interested in donating your material to us, please visit <http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu>.



Carved wood statue donated to the Vietnam Archive by Vernon D. Barrett. Item #1595museum1608

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