



The SACEI Man of The Year Award

The SACEI PERSON OF THE YEAR will be awarded each year, beginning in 2010, to the person who has shown throughout the years through his work or writing:

1. To have fought for Freedom and Human Rights in Vietnam,
2. or to have contributed to Vietnamese-American arts, culture, & education,
3. or to have greatly benefited the cause of the Vietnamese and Vietnamese Americans.

The Award will be presented to the individual and/or organization at the SACEI Annual Meeting.

2011 SACEI MAN OF THE YEAR





CITATION

A former soldier, he is a graduate of West Point and holds a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University. His Army service included tank and armored cavalry units in Germany, Vietnam, and the U.S., Pentagon staff duty, and teaching at the United States Military Academy and the Army War College.

His books include three biographies, *Thunderbolt: General Creighton Abrams and the Army of His Times* and *Honorable Warrior: General Harold K. Johnson and the Ethics of Command*. The Johnson biography received the Army Historical Foundation's Distinguished Book Award. His upcoming biography "*Westmoreland: The General Who Lost Vietnam*" has received rave reviews on Amazon.com.

His book *A Better War: The Unexamined Victories and Final Tragedy of America's Last Years in Vietnam* was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. His edited work *Vietnam Chronicles: The Abrams Tapes, 1968-1972* received the Army Historical Foundation's Trefry Prize for providing a unique perspective on the art of command. A second edited book, *The Vietnam War: An Assessment by South Vietnam's Generals*, has recently been published. He has also written *Honor Bright: History and Origins of the West Point Honor Code and System*.

Please allow me to introduce to you the 2011 SACEI MAN OF THE YEAR:

The 2011 SACEI MAN OF THE YEAR

Doctor Lewis Sorley



THE 2011 SACEI MAN OF THE YEAR

DR. LEWIS SORLEY

In recognition of your Outstanding Contributions to Vietnamese
Arts, Culture, and Fight for Human Rights



ACCEPTANCE SPEECH:

I've to tell you that this means a great deal to me . I'm very, very proud of my Vietnamese friends and their families, especially those who've come to America and enriched our culture and society by the way they live their lives here.

My closest Vietnamese friends live in Sugarland, just outside Houston and I've visited there several times. They believe as you do that it's important, not only to make a whole-hearted commitment to their new lives here, but also if you remember and celebrate the culture from whence they came.

My friend's wife has grandchildren who came to visit very often. She told me once that this is how she kept the culture alive.

The kiddies come in and said in English,
"Grandma. May we have a cookie?"
And she said to them in Vietnamese,
"I'm sorry. I do not understand you."
And they said to her in Vietnamese,
"Grandma. May we have a cookie?"
She said to them:
"Cookies, all around."
Thank you very much.

PUBLICATIONS

The Real Afghan Lessons From Vietnam

Lewis Sorley

Abrams, Bunker and Colby regarded South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu as his country's "No. 1 pacification officer." Against the advice of virtually all his advisers, Thieu took the courageous step of organizing and arming a People's Self-Defense Force to back up localized defense forces that defended their home provinces. Thieu's own view, validated by the results, was that "the government had to rest upon the support of the people, and it had little validity if it did not dare to arm them." Ultimately four million villagers were enrolled in the self-defense force.

Thieu also implemented a "Land to the Tiller" program which, for the first time, brought real land reform to the South Vietnamese peasantry. By 1972 over 400,000 farmers had acquired title to two and a half million acres of land. Tenancy was eliminated.

Better intelligence and a structured Phoenix program (as the campaign against the enemy infrastructure was called) progressively identified and neutralized the enemy's covert infrastructure. Most were either captured or induced to rally to the government side, providing valuable sources of intelligence for going after the rest. By the time of the enemy's 1972 Easter Offensive virtually all U.S. ground troops had been withdrawn. Supported by American airpower and naval gunfire, South Vietnam's armed forces gallantly turned back an invasion from the North amounting to the equivalent of some 20 divisions, or about 200,000 troops.

Critics were quick to attribute the successful defense to American airpower. Abrams would have none of it. "The Vietnamese had to stand and fight," he said. If they hadn't done that, "ten times the [air] power we've got wouldn't have stopped them."

When the last U.S. forces departed South Vietnam in March 1973 pursuant to the Paris Peace Accords, South Vietnam had a viable government and military structure that was positioned—had the U.S. kept its commitments—to sustain itself against the renewed aggression from the North that began almost immediately after the peace accords were signed. When America defaulted on those commitments, South Vietnam was doomed.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703746604574463024150622310.html>



