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**A COUNTRY
STAYS ALIVE
WHEN ITS
CULTURE IS
ALIVE.**

**HOPE NEVER
DIES IN THE
INDOMITABLE
VIETNAMESE
MIND.**

- **SACEI Newsletter** updates you on the latest news about Vietnamese-America.
- It serves as a link between **SACEI** members and those who are interested in the **Vietnamese or Vietnamese-American** culture.

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SAIGON ARTS, CULTURE & EDUCATION INSTITUTE



To Research, Document & Promote Vietnamese Culture

NEWSLETTER # 56

JUNE 2013

Editorial Note: The New Faces of Freedom Fighting

2013 Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a day of remembering men and women who died while serving the United States of America. For the past four years, Vietnamese-Americans have been coming to the Vietnam Veterans Monument in Washington, DC on Saturday before the actual Memorial Day to commemorate the 58,000 plus men and women who sacrificed their lives to try to preserve freedom in Vietnam.

The 2013 Memorial Day was no different. A group of Vietnamese-Americans came to the Wall to render homage to the bravery of these soldiers and officers. There were the usual salute to the US and Vietnamese flags followed by a minute of silence. A group of American veterans, which joined the Vietnamese delegation, was warmly welcomed. The Vietnamese-American delegation then proceeded to the Wall to lay a wreath as well as a poster against the Wall.



Ashes to ashes, they have become, although their bravery and dedication stood tall for years or centuries to come. The two million of Vietnamese-Americans will never forget the 58,000 young soldiers who bravely went to the jungles and mountains of the I, II, and III Corps and the paddies of the IV Corps in South Vietnam to fight the communists alongside the Vietnamese.

We also thought about and prayed for the souls of the 300,000 plus South Vietnamese soldiers who died serving South Vietnam during the war. There are no memorial walls, wreath or commemoration for them yet. They were shunned in their own country, as their National Cemetery in Bien Hoa, South Vietnam on the outskirts of Saigon lies in ruins on the order of the Hanoi communist government.

Which government would raze part of a cemetery, vandalize, desecrate, and destroy it, then put up barbed wire and watch towers around it? To do what? Make a prison for ghosts? Hanoi then prevented families to pay

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Nguyen Xuan Vinh: Aero Space Scientist & Mathematician

Nguyễn Xuân Vinh (b. January 1930 in Yen Bai, Vietnam) is a noted Vietnamese-American aerospace scientist and educator. Vinh is Professor Emeritus of Aerospace Engineering at the University of Michigan, where he taught for nearly thirty years. His seminal work on the guidance, dynamics and optimal control of space vehicles and their interaction with the atmosphere has played a fundamental role in space exploration and technological development. Nguyễn Xuân Vinh attended the French Air Force Academy at Salon de Provence where he specialized in Aeronautical Engineering. In 1954, he graduated from the nearby University of Marseilles in Mathematics and was commissioned as an officer. The following year, he qualified as a French Air Force multi-engine pilot.

Following his return to Vietnam, Vinh was appointed Chief of Staff in the South Vietnamese Air Force in October 1957. In 1958, Vinh became the Commander and first Air Marshal of the Vietnam Air Force at the age of 28. He served as Air Force Commander until 1962 when he resigned and emigrated to the United States.

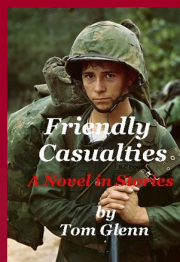


Bui Tien Dung: Executive Officer



Bui Tien Dung is considered one of the most successful people in the IBM information technology corporation. He was born in Thai Binh province, Vietnam, and moved to the US to study at the age of 17 with only US\$150 in his pocket.

After graduating from the University of Minnesota, he applied for a position in the Rochester laboratory where he proved his abilities in the field of marketing and sales. He has been elevated to various senior business posts within IBM and is now Vice President in charge of corporate global business operations.



Friendly Casualties: Tom Glenn

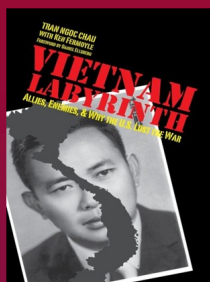
Friendly Casualties, a novel in stories, is centered on the Têt Offensive of 1968. It tells the stories of casualties, Vietnamese and American, of the Vietnam war. At the core is the destruction of the McIntyre family—the colonel, his wife, and their two sons. In the first part, “Triage,” set between February, 1967 and April, 1976, one soldier murders another, an old Vietnamese woman gives up her chances of survival to save an American child, a woman marries the wrong man, a lieutenant sacrifices his life for questionable motives, a reporter helps soldiers build their club, and a military family disintegrates.

Podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/larry-matthews/tom-glenn-podcast>

Websites: <http://tom-tells-tales.org> and <http://vietnam-tragedy.org>

Available on Amazon

<http://www.amazon.com/Friendly-Casualties-Stories-Nam-ebook/dp/B009G7V9CG>



Tran Ngoc Chau: Vietnam Labyrinth

Colonel Tran Ngoc Chau was one of the unsung Vietnamese heroes of the war. As Province Chief in Kien Hoa in the early 1960s he turned that tough province around using two secret weapons rarely used in Vietnam before or since: (1) good government and (2) innovative tactics appropriate to the situation he faced. Colonel Chau was instrumental in developing what became the census-grievance program, the RD Cadre and the Armed Propaganda Teams. In his work he received special praise and support from several of America's best advisors, including John Vann, Ed Lansdale, Rufe Phillips, Frank Scotton and the redoubtable Ev Bumgardner.

Available on Amazon

<http://www.amazon.com/Vietnam-Labyrinth-Allies-Enemies-Southeast/dp/0896727718>

Editorial... continued

visit their loved ones at the cemetery or tender the graves. As a result, 38 years after the war, bushes and



vegetations have overgrown over the grave sites with in some areas 38 year-old-earthen mounds covering the remains of ARVN soldiers. Headstones are missing, defaced, tilted, or toppled and cattle are left grazing in the cemetery. There is NO decent way of dying under the communist regime.

http://www.vnafmamn.com/BienHoa_cemetery75.html

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Editorial... continued

Post-war Vietnam

If dead people were not even left alone, human beings are treated worse. Families were broken down and fathers were sent to re-education camps where they were starved, mistreated, beaten, killed, and left to die because of malnutrition, diseases, and lack of medications.

Soldiers' wives were left to raise their children alone. Having to earn a living, they left home early in the morning and returned late in the evening barely bringing enough food to prevent the family from starving. Children raised without supervision were left to care for themselves and their siblings while their mothers tried to earn some money. Starving children rummaged through garbage dumps for leftover food or something they could sell to buy some food.

Women were lucky if they were allowed to stay in town. If they were unfortunate enough to be sent to new economic zones, they barely could find enough food to survive and would eventually die in the virgin economic zones. They were lucky if they were not harassed by officials who would call them to the offices day after day for questioning. Stuck in the offices, they could not care for their families or earn a living: as a result, their children just starved to death.

This was the picture of post-war life in communist Vietnam. It is sad to say that there is NO paradise under the communist regime. It was no wonder why millions of people, if they could afford it, bought their way out of the country on boats to find refuge somewhere else.

There is almost NO freedom in Vietnam, only oppression, repression, continuing harassment: a slow death under a vindictive and cruel government.



The New Faces of Freedom Fighting

Repression continues today along with corruption--one "hundred" times worse than under the old regimes. There is no equality, no classless society as the communists had promoted. There are the super rich communists who have monopolized all the goodies of the state and the extremely poor who survive on day-to-day basis. There is no in-between, no middle class. The so called revolution has THUS failed to materialize.

Then why start the war if Hanoi decided to wipe out 3-4 million people through a two decade war only to realize that there is NO communist paradise anywhere?

Hanoi therefore is responsible for:

- Violating the 1954 Geneva and 1973 Paris Accords by invading South Vietnam. Hanoi had also violated the 1962 Geneva Accords on Laos in order to protect the HCM trail and to continue its invasion of South Vietnam.
- Waging a murderous 1954-1975 war that killed 3-4 million people,
- Killing ARVN soldiers and government officials by putting them through a system of reeducation camps,
- Killing women and children by sending them to new economic zones after 1975,
- Killing people by pushing them to escape by boats or on land after 1977,
- Killing people through mismanagement of the economy, corruption (123 out of 176), and lack of freedom (172 out of 179) <http://en.rsrf.org/press-freedom-index-2013,1054.html>
- After killing or neutralizing nationalists, soldiers, politicians, monks, priests, they forged ahead and imprisoned civilians, old then young.

And the list is getting longer.

- Viet Khang, singer and song writer was arrested in December 23, 2011 without any charges for releasing his song "Anh là Ai?" (Who Are You?). On October 30, 2012, he was sentenced to 4 years in jail and 2 years of probation.
- Nguyen Van Hai aka Dieu Cay (Tobacco Pipe), Ta Phuong Tan and Phan Thanh Hai, all three bloggers, received 12, 10, and 4 year jail sentence early in 2012. Ta Phuong Tan, a former Cong An (secret police) and communist party member, spoke out about police abuse and corruption within the government. Her mother set herself on fire outside of the Bac Lieu People Committee to protest her daughter's detention. Her death did not cause any uproar because oppression and corruption are so common in Vietnam
- Huynh Thuc Vi, 26 year-old, whose father spent 10 years in jail for his writings was; <http://www.rfa.org/english/women/huynh-thuc-vi-07062012175628.html>

Editorial... continued

And now it is the turn of Nguyen Phuong Uyen and Dinh Nguyen Kha. Nguyen Phuong Uyen, 21, and Dinh Nguyen Kha, 25, were arrested in October 2012 for handing out anti-government leaflets during a protest against China's claims to islands in the South China Sea. In May 2013, both Uyen and Kha have been charged with "conducting propaganda against the state" under Article 88 of the penal code, while Kha faces an additional charge of "terrorism" under Article 84 in a separate case.

Uyen, a student at the Ho Chi Minh University of Food Industry from Ham Thuan Bac district in Binh Thuan province, was taken into custody by authorities on Oct. 14, 2012 in Ho Chi Minh City, and held at a local police station after distributing the leaflets.

Uyen's relatives were notified of her arrest eight days later—after police had already transferred her to authorities in Long An. On Oct. 23, Long An police acknowledged that Uyen had been charged with "conducting propaganda against the state." They said she had been officially arrested on Oct. 19, leaving five days unaccounted for.

Uyen's mother Nguyen Thi Nhung told RFA's Vietnamese Service last month that on April 26 she learned that her daughter had suffered a seizure and other health problems, and had also been subjected to a brutal beating by a fellow inmate. "I could see many bruises on my daughter's body—on her neck, chest, and arms," Nhung said at the time. "She said she was beaten, attacked, and kicked until she fainted," adding that an older female inmate with a criminal record who Uyen did not know had assaulted her and that authorities had only intervened and taken her to the emergency room after she passed out from the beating.

Dinh Nguyen Kha, a student at the Long An University of Economics and Industry from Tan An city, was accused by police of dropping 2,000 anti-government leaflets at the An Suong overpass in Ho Chi Minh City on Oct. 10, 2012 with the help of Uyen. "Putting people on trial for distributing leaflets critical of the government is ridiculous and shows the insecurity of the Vietnamese government," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "Writing things that do not please the government is only a crime in a dictatorship."

The People's Court of Long An province in southern Vietnam on 16 May, 2013 sentenced Nguyen Phuong Uyen, 21, to six years in jail and three years of house arrest and Dinh Nguyen Kha, 25, to 10 years in jail and two years of house arrest. Two of years of Kha's sentence stem from an earlier, unknown verdict. <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/vietnam/activists-05152013185343.html>

Nguyen Phuong Uyen wrote these words before her sentencing:

*The enemy is fast approaching,
Let's stand up
Stand up so that history book could record our pride
Stand up to promote freedom.*

*Stand up to take back our country for the people
To all the Vietnamese
Let's together protect our country for the future of our children.*

On May 26, 2013, another blogger, Tran Duy Nhat was detained in Da Nang and transported to Hanoi for questioning. He was then arrested and charged with abuses of freedom with acts against the state. If convicted, he faces seven years in jail.



Dinh Nguyen Kha

Nguyen Phuong Uyen

A total of 33 bloggers have been incarcerated in Vietnam.

<http://www.theglobaldispatch.com/vietnamese-blogger-truong-duy-nhat-arrested-for-anti-state-views-and-dissent-94746/>

As the older generation that had resisted the communists had passed away or spent their days in communist jails, the torch has been handed down to a younger generation that is brave enough to STAND UP to and resist the oppressive and corrupt regime.

*The fight will go on,
Freedom in Vietnam is at stake,
although its future looks less murky,
because youths have found their voices.
Long live FREE Vietnam.*