



SAIGON ARTS, CULTURE & EDUCATION INSTITUTE



To Research, Document & Promote Vietnamese-American Culture

NEWSLETTER # 70

AUGUST 2014



**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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Vietnam, China, and the Paracels (2)

A. SING FOR THE EASTERN SEA

On July 6, 2014, the Vietnamese community in the U.S. rolled out the "SING FOR THE EASTERN SEA AND DEMOCRACY IN VIETNAM" at Freedom Park, Washington DC. They passed by the White House and marched in protest in front of the Chinese Embassy in DC. Thousands of Vietnamese-Americans expressed their views that the Paracel Islands belong to Vietnam while demanding Democracy in Vietnam. They sang Vietnamese songs, especially *Million Hearts by Truc Ho* (see lyrics below) and waved the yellow Flag of South Vietnam. A sea of yellow color, whether flags or tea shirts, suddenly popped up in DC, gave the Capital a second Spring that first Saturday of July, and brought out youngsters as well as elderly citizens; some are as old as five or six, representing most likely the third generation Vietnamese in America.

Some symbolically stomped on the Chinese communist Flag to demonstrate their anger toward China. They then tore apart one Chinese flag and went on to demonstrate in front of the Chinese Embassy.

Strangely, there was no representation from the Hanoi communist government. This is a pure South Vietnamese movement: the voice of close to 2 million Vietnamese-Americans turns out to be much stronger than that of the 80 million under the communist regime.

From Hanoi came a confused and muddled voice, which has become barely perceptible recently, because:

1. The Hanoi communist Party (CPV) cannot defend Vietnam against China, having been for the last 6-7 decades beholden to the Chinese communists for their military support in the conquest of South Vietnam (see <http://www.sacei07.org/Newsletter69.pdf>)
2. It has signed away the Paracels to the Chinese in 1958, although it did not own it (see Pham van Dong's missive). Just remember that the communists are full of tricks.
3. They have suppressed any spontaneous demonstration from the people in Vietnam for fear of reprisal from China.
4. They have so much antagonized their neighbors, Thailand, Japan, the Philippines, Malaysia for the latter to give a lending hand to them.

1. Video clip by Anh Vân Đậu:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oe18tTZ-LPg>

2. Video clip by Anh Hồ Văn Di Hấn:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INXbnyw8Ajw>

3. 271 photos by Anh Nguyễn Văn Đặng:

https://plus.google.com/116760988778272852998/posts/6GKT9pukTVQ?gpinv=AMIXaI8vWghA-WUljrEPtze_cZfDjNNzQp4sB353hHAXqC5TAgzZsD0dMhJHvktgz-CutO38gyasLZTjF69NATPZRL9YIajfN2iYmN9PuRHT6OR9rGqxls&cfem=1

4. 233 photos by CH Lê Tiến Dũng:

https://plus.google.com/photos/112485815019156243624/albums/6033089393544038209?banner=pwa&authkey=CK770bO_von0qQE

5. Photos by Ms. Lê Bích Phượng

https://plus.google.com/photos/112054976500826561702/albums/6033127199027253793?gpinv=AMIXaI_o7GjHL64q782o2V_li0BQ-vdhRai4GCCmBsQhgkeDK-E-xCQJhLZJqLKWZKVakKKFhZQ4A2KGwz6BLIDTuMmGuRbB0xhkNKjkSGH-Dy5IYBDgDo&cfem=1&authkey=CKCtkOWS9O64Kw

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6. Photos by Anh Nguyễn Tự Tín:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/38946290@N00/sets/72157645141279559/>

7. Photos by Anh Nhất Hùng,

<https://plus.google.com/photos/107083453647862057018/albums/6033188453197704385?banner=pwa>

B. NEWS FROM THE US SENATE

The US Senate on July 10 adopted a resolution coded S.RES.412 on the East Sea, requesting China to return immediately to the status quo as it existed before May 1, 2014.

The resolution reaffirms “the strong support of the United States Government for freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region, and for the peaceful diplomatic resolution of outstanding territorial and maritime claims and disputes”.

It states that although the US is not a claimant party in the East Sea but it is a longstanding Asia-Pacific power and has a clear interest in encouraging and supporting the nations of the region to work collaboratively and diplomatically to resolve disputes and is firmly opposed to coercion, intimidation, threats, or the use of force.

It emphasises the vital importance of the increasing frequency and assertiveness of patrols and competing regulations over disputed territory and maritime areas and airspace in the East Sea (South China Sea) and the East China Sea are raising tensions and increasing the risk of confrontation.

Resolution S.RES.412 also lists a series of China’s actions that violated international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). On May 1, 2014, the People’s Republic of China ’s state-owned energy company, CNOOC , placed its deep-water semi-submersible drilling rig Haiyang Shiyou -981, accompanied by over 25 Chinese ships, in Block 143, 120 nautical miles off Vietnam ’s coast-line.



Unequivocal demands: China, get out of Paracel and Spratly Islands



One of the youngest demonstrators



A sea of yellow red-striped flags

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Stomping on the Chinese flag



Demonstrating in front of the Chinese Embassy in DC



A rare few American supporters



Down with communism

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Viet Dzung Human Right Memorial Highway



1958 - 2013

Joseph NGUYỄN NGỌC HÙNG DŨNG

The California Legislature has approved the naming of a section of State Highway 39 as the Việt Dzũng Human Right Memorial Highway in honor of Vietnamese-American Artist Viet Dzung.

SCR 85, as introduced, Correa. Viet Dzung Human Rights Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 39 (Beach Boulevard) in the County of Orange as the Viet Dzung Human Rights Memorial Highway. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

WHEREAS, Prior to his death in December 2013, at the age of 55 years, Viet Dzung was a recognized musician, songwriter, emcee, community leader, and an ardent voice for freedom, human rights, and democracy, particularly in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Viet Dzung was born in Saigon, Vietnam, on September 8, 1958, to a former member of parliament and a school teacher; and

WHEREAS, After the end of the Vietnam War, he fled to Singapore before moving to the United States in 1976 and being reunited with his family; and

WHEREAS, Viet Dzung's father served honorably as a South Vietnamese military police officer and suffered at the hands of a communist government as a prisoner in a concentration camp for seven years, and his mother struggled every day to support her family in postwar Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Drawing strength from his family's refugee experience, Viet Dzung was a champion involved in and leading the Vietnamese American community to honor the Vietnamese culture and to celebrate, defend, and press for freedoms both here and in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Viet Dzung was instrumental as an organizer and emcee for the annual Black April Commemoration at the Vietnam War Memorial in the City of Westminster to honor United States and South Vietnamese veterans and the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for freedom during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, Viet Dzung reached out to and involved thousands of Vietnamese Americans, including performers, singers, students, business owners, religious leaders, and non-profit leaders, as a daily voice on Radio Bolsa every morning providing news and public service announcements to the largest Vietnamese American community in the United

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States; and

WHEREAS, Viet Dzung, whose real name was Nguyen Ngoc Hung Dung, was respected in Little Saigon and worldwide for his dedication to the Vietnamese refugee community and his commitment to fighting for human rights, religious freedom, and democracy in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of people have been inspired by Viet Dzung's activism, music, and art throughout his meaningful life; and

WHEREAS, Viet Dzung's life serves as an example of how one person can have a positive impact on those around him and his community; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates the portion of State Highway Route 39 (Beach Boulevard) between State Highway Route 405 and Talbert Avenue in the County of Orange as the Viet Dzung Human Rights Memorial Highway; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the author for appropriate distribution.

Hieu Van Le: next South Australia Governor

From war-torn Vietnam to vice-regal post

Former Vietnam refugee Hieu Van Le has been named as South Australia's next governor.

Mr Le, the current deputy, will replace Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce from September.

Premier Jay Weatherill said Mr Le had a great life story, having arrived in Australia from war-torn Vietnam as a refugee 36 years ago.

"[He is] the first Asian migrant to rise to the position of governor in our state's history," Mr Weatherill said.

"He has already demonstrated an outstanding level of service to the community and I have no doubt that he will serve the role with great distinction, as he has done in the role of Lieutenant-Governor since 2007."

Mr Le worked as an accountant until he retired in 2009 and was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2010.

Mr Le says he is deeply honoured and humbled by the appointment.

"It is the stuff of a fairy tale to be honest, and I'm still trying to come to terms with that right now," he said.

"As a young boat people refugee, I arrived here 36 years ago with nothing but an invisible suitcase filled with dreams, [with] a dream to live in a peaceful, safe and free country and to live a meaningful and fulfilling life.

"But to be bestowed with the greatest honour and the privilege of holding the vice-regal office is absolutely beyond my wildest dream.

"This appointment, however, says much more about our society than about me. It sends a powerful message affirming our inclusive and egalitarian society."

Governor-designate recalls anti-immigrant views

Mr Le later spoke to the ABC's PM program in which he recalled some of the anti-immigrant views he experienced after arriving in Australia.

"I did hear from the newspapers and radio talkbacks and all that sort of thing, even in Federal Parliament as well as the State Parliament, there's a lot of statements made about the boat people, about the diseases that they may bring to this country, and weren't a member of the society and that kind of thing.

The journey from refugee to Governor

"G'day mate" was the unexpected greeting for Hieu Van Le more than three decades ago when he was among the first Vietnamese boat people to arrive in Australia from his war-torn country.

"Yes, it started just like any other new wave of migrants, we call cop with some sort of criticism and negativity at first.

"But then after the first couple of years, with all kind of headlines and everything about the Vietnamese, we're becoming so quiet, so unremarkable, and I think that is a good sign and that's a sign that we are totally integrated into the society to the extent that it's become unremarkable.

"Until, I have to say, until when Pauline Hanson made a speech in Parliament, then there's some part of the society started moving up and some sort of a negativity, but then after that, it was just very short-lived."

Cancer Council SA chief Brenda Wilson will succeed Mr Le as lieutenant-governor.

Mr Weatherill has thanked Rear Admiral Scarce for his work.

"His Excellency and Mrs Scarce have been outstanding advocates for South Australia in their roles," he said.

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"I know many South Australians appreciate the contribution His Excellency has made as patron of more than 200 charities and organisations across the state.

"He has been tireless in his efforts to support the economic and social wellbeing of South Australians."

Hieu Van Le AO

- Now 60, he was born in Quang Tri in central Vietnam in 1954
- He is married to Lan, who arrived with him on a boat from Vietnam 36 years ago
- They have two sons, Don and Kim, who they named after Australian cricketers Don Bradman and Kim Hughes
- Mr Le holds a degree in economics and accountancy and a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Adelaide University
- He is a member of the Certified Practising Accountants and from 1991 was a senior manager of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission until he retired in early 2009
- He is a patron and member of more than 30 community organisations
- Mr Le was appointed as an Officer in the Order of Australia on Australia Day in 2010
- He has been awarded the Australia Day Medal for outstanding service to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission
- He holds the Australian Centenary Medal 'for service to the advancement of multiculturalism in Australia'
- Adelaide University awarded him an honorary doctorate for service to society in 2008 and Flinders University bestowed an honour in 2011
- Mr Le will become governor of South Australia on September 2 this year



One million hearts, together step forward in and struggle of our people

MILLION HEARTS: by Truc Ho

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X75q92uM_1k

Million Hearts Lyrics

From afar looking toward our homeland
Four thousand years of history
Ai Nam Quan, no longer,
Hoang Truong Sa, no longer.
Oh Mother Vietnam.

This moment looking toward our homeland
How can such cruelty be?
Patriots locked in prisons
A mother self-immolated for love of her daughter.

** Let's learn to love our Vietnam
Let's learn the pain and struggle of our people
Ai Nam Quan, Hoang Truong Sa
One thousand years of northern aggression.
What will happen of our homeland?
Let's learn to love our Vietnam
Let's learn the pain and struggle of our people
Don't stand still. Don't turn a blind eye

One million hearts, together step forward.
We are the children of Mother Vietnam.

This moment looking toward our homeland
How can such cruelty be?
Patriots locked in prisons
A mother self-immolated for love of her daughter.

Stand with me. Look at our homeland.
What will become of our country?
Casualties, those without shelter.
Victims in their own homeland.
The pain of Mother Vietnam

** Let's learn to love our Vietnam
Let's learn the pain and struggle of our people
Ai Nam Quan, Hoang Truong Sa
One thousand years of northern aggression.
What will happen of our homeland?

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Let's learn to love our Vietnam
Let's learn the pain and struggle of our people
Don't stand still. Don't turn a blind eye
One million hearts, together step forward.
We are the children of Mother Vietnam.

This moment looking toward our homeland
How can such cruelty be?
Patriots locked in prisons
A mother self-immolated for love of her daughter.

Let's be the wind of change,
Let's be the wind of change.

Footnotes:

Hoang Sa: Paracel Islands

Truong Sa: Spratly Islands

MILLION HEARTS...



Views of 1961 Saigon

Many memories of the 1961 Saigon can be recalled by watching this youtube.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Svs2RIJ4Pw



Abandoned Allies: Surry Roberts



This is a documentary about the US government's betrayal and abandonment of its closest allies during the Vietnam War—the Montagnards of the Central Highlands of South Vietnam. Over 50% of the Montagnards' adult male population was lost fighting alongside the American Special Forces. They died in place of Americans and without their sacrifice there would have been hundreds more names on that somber black granite wall—The Vietnam memorial. This documentary is narrated by Americans who fought and worked alongside the Montagnards in Vietnam and those who managed to escape to the US.

Just before the fall of South Vietnam in April 1975, the Montagnards were promised continued military aid by the American Embassy if they went into the jungles and continued their fight against the communists. They did what they were asked to do and never received their promised aid.

From our "Abandoned Allies," a group of 212 fighters and their families emerged from the jungles of Cambodia after 11 years of fighting, fled to a refugee camp in Thailand and resettled in the US in 1986. A second group of 400, dubbed the "Lost Battalion," was located in Eastern Cambodia in 1992 and resettled in the US after 17 years of continued guerilla war. Only these few survived of the thousands who fled to the jungles to continue their fight against the Vietnamese communists; the others were either killed or died of disease and malnutrition in the jungle in unmarked graves.

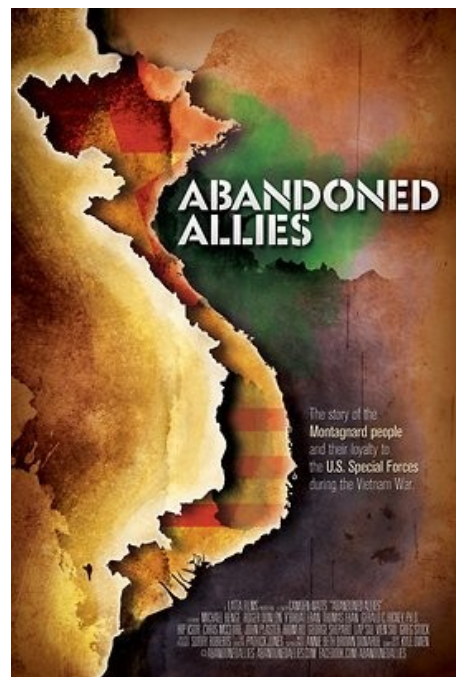
The final betrayal of our "Abandoned Allies" occurred in February 2007, when Ellen Sauerbrey, the Assistant Secretary of state for Populations, Refugee, and Migration went to Vietnam and proclaimed to the world that the Montagnards were no longer being persecuted by the Vietnamese communists and they should stay in the central Highlands and not flee to other countries to try to obtain refugee status.

This film also describes the continuing persecution and ethnic cleansing of the Montagnards in Vietnam at the hands of the communist government of Vietnam for their support for the United States.



To Purchase this DVD, write to:

Dr. Surry Roberts
Abandoned Allies
120 Woodburn Rd
Raleigh, NC 27605



Cost: **\$18.00 by check or money order** (Payable to Dr. Surry Roberts: postage and handling included)

Black April Day Act

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&DocId=6533755&File=4>

The Senate of Canada through Bill S-219 passed "An Act respecting a national day of commemoration of the exodus of Vietnamese refugees and their acceptance in Canada after the fall of Saigon and the end of the Vietnam War."

2nd Session, 41st Parliament
62-63 Elizabeth II, 2013-2014
SENATE OF CANADA

BILLS S-219

Preamble

Whereas the Canadian Forces were involved in the Vietnam War with supervisory operations to support the aim of establishing peace and ending the Vietnam War by assisting in the enforcement of the Paris Peace Accords of 1973;

Whereas on April 30, 1975, despite the Paris Peace Accords, the military forces of the People's Army of Vietnam and the National Liberation Front invaded South Vietnam, which led to the fall of Saigon, the end of the Vietnam War and the establishment of a single-party socialist government;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has reported that these events and the conditions faced by individuals in Vietnam, including deteriorating living conditions and human rights abuses, contributed to the exodus of approximately 840,000 Vietnamese people, who were referred to at the time as "Vietnamese boat people", to neighbouring countries in the ensuing years;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has reported that at least 250,000 Vietnamese people lost their lives at sea during the exodus of the Vietnamese people for reasons that included drowning, illness, starvation and violence from kidnapping or piracy;

Whereas the sponsorship refugee program in Canada, assisted by the efforts of Canadian families, Canadian charities, religious groups and non-governmental organizations, contributed to Canada accepting more than 60,000 Vietnamese refugees, among whom it has been estimated that 34,000 were privately sponsored and 26,000 were assisted by the Canadian government;

2e session, 41e législature,
62-63 Elizabeth II, 2013-2014
SÉNAT DU CANADA

PROJET DE LOI S-219

Préambule

Loi instituant une journée nationale de commémoration de l'exode des réfugiés vietnamiens et de leur accueil au Canada après la chute de Saïgon et la fin de la guerre du Vietnam
Attendu :

que les Forces canadiennes ont pris part à la guerre du Vietnam dans le cadre d'opérations de surveillance menées pour appuyer l'objectif de rétablir la paix et de mettre fin à la guerre du Vietnam, en aidant à assurer le respect des Accords de paix de Paris de 1973; que le 30 avril 1975, malgré les Accords de paix de Paris, les forces militaires de l'Armée populaire vietnamienne et du Front national de libération ont envahi le Vietnam du Sud, ce qui a entraîné la chute de Saïgon, la fin de la guerre du Vietnam et l'établissement d'un gouvernement socialiste à parti unique;

que, selon le Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés, ces événements ainsi que la situation vécue par les gens du Vietnam, notamment la détérioration des conditions de vie et les violations des droits de la personne, ont contribué à l'exode de quelque 840 000 d'entre eux — appelés à l'époque les « réfugiés de la mer vietnamiens » — vers les pays voisins au cours des années qui ont suivi;

que, d'après un rapport du Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés, au moins 250 000 Vietnamiens sont décédés en mer au cours de cet exode en raison notamment des noyades, de la maladie, de la famine et des violences liées aux enlèvements ou aux actes de piraterie;

que, grâce aux efforts des familles canadiennes et à ceux des groupes religieux, des organismes de bienfaisance et des organismes non gouvernementaux du Canada, le programme canadien de parrainage des réfugiés a permis d'accueillir au pays plus de 60 000 réfugiés vietnamiens, parmi lesquels, selon les estimations, 34 000 ont été parrainés par des organismes du secteur privé et 26 000 ont reçu l'aide du gouvernement canadien;

Continue on next page

Black April Day Act...

Whereas the major and sustained contribution by the people of Canada to the cause of refugees was recognized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees when it awarded the Nansen Refugee Award to the "People of Canada" in 1986;

And whereas April 30 is referred to by many members of the community of displaced Vietnamese people and their families in Canada as "Black April Day" and is, therefore, an appropriate day to designate as a day to remember and commemorate the lives lost and the suffering experienced during the exodus of Vietnamese people, the acceptance of Vietnamese refugees in Canada, the gratitude of Vietnamese people to the Canadian people and the Government of Canada for accepting them, and the contributions of Vietnamese-Canadian people — whose population is now approximately 300,000 — to Canadian society;

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

SHORT TITLE

Short title 1. This Act may be cited as the *Black April Day Act*.

BLACK APRIL DAY

Black April Day 2. Throughout Canada, in each and every year, the thirtieth day of April shall be known as "Black April Day".

Not a legal holiday 3. For greater certainty, Black April Day is not a legal holiday or a non-juridical day.

Published under authority of the Senate of Canada

que le Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés a reconnu la contribution importante et soutenue de la population canadienne à la cause des réfugiés lorsqu'il a décerné la distinction Nansen pour les réfugiés au « peuple canadien » en 1986;

qu'il convient de désigner le 30 avril — que de nombreux membres de la communauté des Vietnamiens déplacés et leurs familles au Canada reconnaissent déjà comme « jour de l'Avril noir » — en tant que journée pour commémorer les vies perdues et la souffrance vécue lors de l'exode du peuple vietnamien, souligner l'accueil des réfugiés vietnamiens par la population et le gouvernement du Canada et la gratitude du peuple vietnamien à l'égard cet accueil, et reconnaître les contributions apportées par les Vietnamo-Canadiens — aujourd'hui au nombre d'environ 300 000 — à la société canadienne,

Sa Majesté, sur l'avis et avec le consentement du Sénat et de la Chambre des communes du Canada, édicte :

TITRE ABRÉGÉ

1. *Loi sur le Jour de l'Avril noir.*

Titre abrégé

JOUR DE L'AVRIL NOIR

2. Le 30 avril est, dans tout le Canada, désigné comme « Jour de l'Avril noir ».

Jour de l'Avril noir

3. Il est entendu que le Jour de l'Avril noir n'est pas une fête légale ni un jour non juridique.

Statut

April, 1975

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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27	28	29	30			



by photojournalist Horst Faas