



GEORGE BUSH

May 12, 2008

Dear Dr. Maxner,

Barbara and I join in congratulating you and your staff as you celebrate the opening of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association (FVPPA) Collection on May 28, 2008.

The Vietnam Center and Archive, and the Vietnamese American Heritage Foundation are to be commended for their combined efforts to gather, preserve, and promote the history of this unique and important immigration story. The information in this collection will provide researchers with an abundance of first-hand accounts of Vietnamese immigrants and their experiences; it will help historians understand the Vietnamese-American immigration experience; and it will serve as an important resource for genealogical research.

Bottom line, the records preserve the voices of thousands of Vietnamese immigrants for future generations.

I am proud that significant gains in the Vietnamese-American immigration experience took place during my term as President. Many dedicated White House and State Department staff members worked diligently with the Communist government of Vietnam to allow re-education camp prisoners to emigrate from Vietnam. In July 1989, an agreement was signed in Hanoi that allowed the emigration of released re-education camp detainees and their families through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Orderly Departure Program. As a result, thousands of Vietnamese were able to relocate to the United States; and we as a country have benefited greatly from their accomplishments and contributions.

Congratulations again, and best wishes for a wonderful celebration.

Sincerely,

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