



THE VETNAM  
CENTER AND ARCHIVE

*Celebrating 20 years*

of Preserving the Past for a Better Future



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY™



# Program of Events

**7:00** Seating and silent auction begin

**7:30** Dinner is served

**8:15** Silent auction ends

~

Opening remarks by Master of Ceremonies Jim Douglass

Welcome from Vietnam Center Director Stephen Maxner, Ph.D.

Remarks by Texas Tech Chancellor Kent Hance

Remarks by Mr. H. Ross Perot, Sr.

Remarks by Lubbock Mayor Tom Martin, Texas Representative Carl Isett,  
and U.S. Representative Randy Neugebauer

Remarks by Dr. James R. Reckner

Closing remarks

~Music provided by members of the Monterey High School Orchestra~

## Menu

### *Salad*

Chopped apple and spring mix salad complimented with a maple vinaigrette dressing and whole pecans

### *Main course*

12 oz. choice seared sirloin with Red Raider steak sauce

Garlic mashed potatoes

Caribbean vegetable mix

Choice of artisan breads

### *Dessert*

Ultimate Chocolate Cake

Lemoncello Tart

## MR. H. ROSS PEROT, SR., KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ross Perot was born June 27, 1930, in Texarkana, Texas. His parents, Ross and Lulu May Perot, were major influences in the lives of Mr. Perot and his sister, Bette. Although the family was of modest circumstances, Mr. Perot has often said he was born rich, because of his parents' love, support and encouragement. Starting at age seven, and throughout his childhood, Mr. Perot held various jobs, including buying and selling bridles, saddles, horses and calves. Mr. Perot joined the Boy Scouts of America and became an Eagle Scout in fifteen months. He attended public schools in Texarkana, as well as Texarkana Junior College.

At age 19, he entered the U.S. Naval Academy where he served as Class President, and received the National College Award for Leadership. After graduating in 1953, he served four years at sea on a Destroyer and an Aircraft Carrier, taking him around the world through 17 seas and oceans, and 23 foreign countries.

He met Margot Birmingham of Greensburg, Pennsylvania in 1952, while he was at the Naval Academy. They married in 1956 and, after Mr. Perot's honorable discharge from the Navy in 1957, settled in Dallas. Mrs. Perot taught school, and he joined IBM as a salesman in the Data Processing Division.

In 1962, with a \$1,000 loan from his wife, Mr. Perot started Electronic Data Systems (EDS). Over the next 22 years he built EDS into one of the world's largest technology services firms and in 1984, he sold EDS to General Motors for \$2.5 billion. In 1988, he founded a new technology services company, Perot Systems Corporation. He served as Chief Executive Officer until 1992 and again from 1997 until 2000, helping to take the company public in 1999. Mr. Perot served as Chairman of the Board until 2004, when he was elected Chairman Emeritus.

In addition to his successful business career, Mr. Perot has been involved in a number of public activities. In 1969, at the request of the U.S. government, he spearheaded a three and a half-year campaign to end the brutal treatment U.S. POWs received from their Southeast Asian captors. In recognition of his efforts, Mr. Perot was awarded the Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the highest civilian award presented by the Department of Defense.

When two EDS employees were taken hostage by the Iranian government in 1979, Mr. Perot organized and directed a successful rescue mission, composed of EDS employees (Vietnam veterans) and led by retired Special Forces Colonel Arthur "Bull" Simons. Noted author Ken Follett, in his book *On Wings of Eagles*, which NBC later made into a mini-series, told the story of this daring rescue. The book was #1 on the New York Times bestseller list.

Mr. Perot has also been active in public policy issues in his home state of Texas. In 1979, he led the Texans' War on Drugs Committee. In 1984, Mr. Perot led the effort to reform the public school system in Texas, which resulted in major legislative changes and long-lasting improvements in public education.

In 1984, Mr. Perot purchased the only copy of the Magna Carta that has been allowed to leave Great Britain. It has been placed on loan to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., where it is displayed alongside the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Mr. Perot also purchased many historical artifacts from the Russian space program in 1993. They are on display at the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institute in an exhibit called "The Space Race."

In 1992, Mr. Perot ran for President of the United States as an Independent candidate, winning 19% of the vote, one of the largest percentages ever for an Independent. He ran again in 1996 on the Reform Party ticket.

Mr. Perot is the author of seven books on a variety of subjects: *United We Stand; Not for Sale at Any Price; Save Your Job, Save Our Country* (co-authored with Pat Choate); *Intensive Care; Preparing Our Country For the 21st Century; The Dollar Crisis* (co-authored with Senator Paul Simon); and *Ross Perot, My Life & The Principles for Success*.

Mr. Perot has received numerous awards and honors, including The Winston Churchill Award; the Raoul Wallenberg Award; the Jefferson Award for Public Service; the Patrick Henry Award; the National Business Hall of Fame Award; the Sarnoff Award; the Eisenhower Award; the Smithsonian Computerworld Award; the Horatio Alger Award; the Texas Business Hall of Fame Award; the Texas Science Hall of Fame Award; and the Distinguished Business Leader Award presented by Texas Association of Business.

The Perots, married for 48 years, have five children – Ross, Jr., Nancy, Suzanne, Carolyn and Katherine. They also have 15 grandchildren. The Perot family is actively involved in a variety of charitable and civic activities through the Perot Foundation.





## DR. JAMES R. RECKNER, FOUNDER AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE VIETNAM CENTER AND ARCHIVE

James R. Reckner was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in August 1940. He joined the United States Navy in June 1958 and served for twenty years as a seaman, petty officer and officer, before retiring in 1978. As a Navy lieutenant, he served two tours of duty as an advisor with river forces of the South Vietnamese Navy.

Upon retirement, Reckner immigrated to New Zealand, where he became a freshman at the University of Auckland in 1979. By 1985, he had earned his baccalaureate degree, a master's degree (with first class honors), and a doctorate, all in history, with a focus on Asian history.

In 1987, Reckner returned to the United States after having lived overseas for nearly twenty years, and in 1988 he accepted a position as an assistant professor of history at Texas Tech University. His area of academic research is the United States Navy during the period 1880-1910.

In 1989, alarmed by his history students lack of knowledge of the Vietnam War, Reckner decided to create a class about the war. He visited the TTU library and found very few resources available for students. Together with local Veterans, Reckner approached the TTU Board of Regents and was given approval to create what is now known as the Vietnam Center and Archive.

Reckner continued as executive director of the Vietnam Center for 18 years, developing the Center and Archive into a world renowned center for research on the Vietnam Era. Building on the success of the Vietnam Center, in 2008 Reckner helped create the Institute for Modern Conflict, Diplomacy and Reconciliation (IMCDR), of which the Vietnam Center became a part, as well as a new Center and Archive for War and Diplomacy in the Post-Vietnam War Era. He continued as director of the IMCDR until his retirement in 2009.

Reckner has published two books, *Teddy Roosevelt's Great White Fleet* (Naval Institute Press, 1988, repr. 2001), and *A Sailor's Log: Water Tender Frederick T. Wilson on Asiatic Station, 1899-1901* (Kent State University Press, 2004).

In addition to teaching and his work with the Vietnam Center and the IMCDR, Reckner has since 1997 been a member of the U.S. Secretary of the Navy's Advisory Subcommittee on Naval History. He also serves on the Advisory Board for the Vietnam Education Center to be built under the National Mall.

He is a member of the editorial board for Vietnam magazine; and is a founding member of the executive board of the Texas Aviation Heritage Foundation, Inc., and the Silent Wings Museum Foundation.

Reckner has been married since 1963 to Peggy Lee "Middy" Reckner of Wellington, New Zealand. They have three children and two grandchildren.



## PHIL PRICE, PRESIDENT OF THE VIETNAM CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

In 1967, Phil graduated from Texas Tech University with a BBA degree in advertising. That summer, while directing sales crews on both coasts for Lubbock-based Institutional Directories, he received his draft notice. Wanting to serve as an officer, Phil volunteered for the Army's college op program that allowed him to attend officer candidate school (OCS).

He received basic and advanced infantry training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, during the winter of 1967/68. Phil was then sent to Ft. Benning Georgia, for OCS. He graduated as an honor graduate in September 1968 and served as a TAC officer at Ft. Benning until receiving orders for Vietnam in April 1969.

After Jungle School at Ft. Sherman, Panama, Phil was assigned as an infantry platoon leader for the 2/8 (MECH) Infantry, 4th Infantry Division. He served in the Central Highlands of Vietnam until September 1969 when he was wounded in action and medevac'd to Camp Zama, Japan for surgery then to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, for rehab and physical therapy. His awards include the Purple Heart, Bronze Star with "V" Device, Combat Infantryman's Badge and others.

Phil and his wife, Victoria, returned to Lubbock in May 1970. He planned to attend graduate school and return to his position as V.P. of the Lubbock publishing company; however, the company was demolished by a tornado a day before he was released from active duty.

He helped create a local magazine to assist with his and Victoria's college and living expenses before starting his own advertising agency in 1972. The one-man shop has grown to become The Price Group - one of the largest full-service advertising agencies in West Texas.

After working with other Vietnam veterans to develop a memorial for Vietnam veterans, Phil learned of Jim Reckner's plan to establish a Vietnam Center at Texas Tech. Believing such a center would be a far better and longer lasting memorial than a traditional monument, he quickly joined Dr. Reckner and others to start the project in 1989.

Phil was among the first to donate books and videotapes and became the 2nd Chairman of the Vietnam Center Advisory Board. His friendship with State Senator John T. Montford allowed him to request a state grant for the nascent center and resulted in the Vietnam Center's first six-figure grant. The state legislature has continued to help fund the center thanks to continued assistance from our West Texas delegation including State Representatives Carl Isett and Delwin Jones and State Senator Bob Duncan.

Phil and his company have assisted with other military-related projects including the American Legion's Lubbock Area Veterans War Memorial, the Silent Wings Museum at Lubbock International Airport, the Lubbock Area Foundation's Fallen Heroes Fund and both the send off celebration and welcome home salute for our local reserve unit for duty in Iraq. Phil and his staff also worked on establishing the statue in Huneke Park of Columbia Space Shuttle astronaut, Willie McCool.





## **JIM DOUGLASS, MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

A native of San Antonio, Jim Douglass currently serves as Associate Vice President of the Texas Tech Alumni Association in Lubbock, TX, a position he has held since 1979. Prior to that, Jim was the first full-time Executive Director of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Lubbock agency, a position he held for six years.

At the Alumni Association, Jim oversees a nation-wide network of alumni chapters, coordinating over 90 Texas Tech clubs from coast to coast. In addition, he coordinates the Association's legislative advocacy network and its Vacation Travel program.

Since October 2004, Douglass has co-hosted "Fox Talk in the Morning," a three-hour radio/TV program broadcast Monday through Friday mornings on KJTV-AM Radio in Lubbock.

Jim has served on various boards and commissions and has a long history of volunteerism in the Lubbock community. He has been president/chairman of the following: the Lubbock Jaycees; Caprock chapter of AMBUCS; Southwest Lubbock Rotary Club; the South Plains Special Olympics; the Volunteer Center of Lubbock; the Multiple Sclerosis Society; the South Plains Children's Shelter; the United Way Speaker's Bureau; the Lubbock Community Development Advisory Board and the Lubbock Culture & Arts Commission.

In addition, he currently is on the board of the South Plains Council of Boy Scouts of America where he chairs the South Plains Eagle Scout Association. He also is a member of the Entertainment Lubbock Committee, appointed by the City Council; and he serves on the Legislative Affairs Committee of the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce. He is an advisory board member for the Saddle Tramps Alumni Association at Texas Tech. Douglass was a member of the Lubbock Independent School District Bond Steering Committee, which resulted in a successful \$98.8 million bond election in 2004. In 2008, he was honored with the "Hero for Children Award," presented by the Texas State Board of Education.

Jim loves to travel and has successfully completed three Marathons: the San Francisco, New York and Boston Marathons. In addition, he officiated college and high school basketball for 30 years before retiring in 2005.

Jim is married to Patti Douglass, a Mary Kay Consultant. They have three children and two grandchildren. The Douglass's attend Christ the King Catholic Church.



## **DR. STEPHEN F. MAXNER, DIRECTOR, THE VIETNAM CENTER AND ARCHIVE**



Dr. Stephen F. Maxner has been the director of the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University since July 2007. Originally from Massachusetts, he left after graduating high school to serve in the United States Army at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, with the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and 1st Special Operations Command (Airborne). After leaving the Army, he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in History (magna cum laude) as well as a Regular Army ROTC Commission (Distinguished Military Graduate) at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. He then served as an Infantry Platoon Leader at Fort Benning, Georgia. After leaving Fort Benning, Dr. Maxner returned to North Carolina where he earned his Master of Arts degree in History before going to Texas Tech University where he earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree in History. In addition to his work at the Vietnam Center, Dr. Maxner is the series editor for the Modern Southeast Asia Series at the Texas Tech University Press. In September 2008 he was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve on the Board of Directors for the Vietnam Education Foundation, where he now serves as Chairman of the Board. Dr. Maxner is married to Tara Lennon and they have one son, Vincent.

# The Vietnam Center

The Vietnam Center was founded in 1989 by Dr. James Reckner, a military history professor and two-tour Navy veteran of the Vietnam War. Reckner arrived at Texas Tech University in 1988 after serving as a career officer in the United States Navy. His research specialty was naval history with a focus on Theodore Roosevelt and the Great White Fleet of the early 20th Century. But shortly after he started teaching Reckner learned that few, if any, of his students knew or understood very much about the Vietnam War. This troubled him since the Vietnam War was one of the most important and formative experiences in Reckner's life and in the lives of millions of Americans. Historians and scholars were already looking deeply into the Vietnam War as one of the most important events of the second half of the 20th Century. As a result, he felt an obligation to do something to help students at Texas Tech University to have a better understanding of the historical events surrounding that war.

Reckner wanted to begin addressing this problem by offering courses on the history of the Vietnam War but the university lacked the resources necessary for research into this area of history. So, with strong support from Lubbock area Vietnam veterans, Reckner received permission from the Texas Tech University Board of Regents to establish the Vietnam Center in 1989. The purpose for the Center is to promote the study of all aspects of the American experience in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War and to foster a better understanding of the peoples and cultures of Southeast Asia. The Vietnam Center also includes the Vietnam Archive, which has as its mission collecting, preserving, and providing access to historical materials related to the Vietnam War and the US/Vietnam experience and relationship. The local Vietnam veterans who helped Reckner to create the Vietnam Center became and still serve as a Local Advisory Board. In addition, the Vietnam Center established a National Advisory Council consisting of nationally prominent Vietnam veterans, policy makers, and scholars to include General William C. Westmoreland, Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., and former CIA Director William Colby.

To promote study, research, and scholarship, the Vietnam Center sponsors annual conferences, symposia, and lectures, which help to enhance our knowledge and understanding of the Vietnam War and its aftermath. These events have cultivated a very lively discussion about those historical events and have brought together relatively disparate groups. This includes academic and independent scholars and researchers, military and civilian leaders from around the world, military veterans from all sides of the conflict to include the United States, North Vietnam, and South Vietnam, and members of the interested public. In this way, the many sides and voices of the United States/Vietnam experience are brought together for a discussion that is contributing to a more complete and balanced understanding of the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam Center also administers a number of scholarships for students in the United States, Vietnam and Cambodia. This includes a summer study abroad program that supports Texas Tech student travel to Southeast Asia. The Center plays a vital role in enhancing the relationship between the United States and Vietnam in trade, medical projects, and humanitarian activities that involve Texas Tech, Lubbock, and the State of Texas. As a result, the Vietnam Center has been recognized by leaders in both nations as fostering a better future for our countries by contributing directly to the reconciliation between the United States and Vietnam.





## THE VIETNAM ARCHIVE

The mission of the Vietnam Archive is to collect, preserve, and provide access to primary resources and scholarship related to all aspects of the Vietnam War Era. The first collection received by the Archive - letters written by a Navy corpsman to his family while serving in Vietnam - symbolizes our commitment to preserve the record of individual participants and provide a greater understanding of the war based on their experiences. The Vietnam Archive also works with many other organizations in the United States and abroad to include the National Archives and Records Administration, Library of Congress, Naval History and Heritage Center, Marine Corps History and Museums Division, Army Center of Military History, Air Force Historical Research Agency, State Records and Archives Department of Vietnam, and many other organizations and projects in the United States and around the world.

Since 1989, the Vietnam Archive has grown into the largest collection of Vietnam War related materials outside the U.S. National Archives. The archive contains approximately 20 million pages of material to include paper documents, microfilm, photographs, slides, maps, audio and video recordings, periodicals, books, oral history interviews and more. Collection materials cover the early history of Southeast Asia, the French colonial period to include the French-Indochina War, the United States experiences in Southeast Asia, and the impact of those experiences on our nations and the region during and since the war.

The collections in the Vietnam Archive reflect many different experiences of people who participated in those events. The core of the collection tells the story of men and women who served in Southeast Asia with military, civilian, and government agencies and organizations operating in the region. To help facilitate our work with veterans and other participants, the Vietnam Center and Archive engage in a very active outreach program attending veteran reunions around the country and informing them of our sincere dedication to preserve and provide access to their history.

In addition to veterans, archive collections tell the story of people who were active on the home front either personally or in organizations that either supported or protested the war in Vietnam. Of equal importance, the collections in the Vietnam Archive preserve the history of South Vietnam and North Vietnam and the allies who supported both sides of the conflict.

The Vietnam Archive is also dedicated to the collection and preservation of the experiences of more than one million Vietnamese Americans who live throughout the United States. In 2007, the Vietnam Archive created a position for our Vietnamese American Heritage Archivist who is focused on working with that community to collect and preserve their history. In all of these ways, the Vietnam Archive acts in concert with the mission of the Vietnam Center in preserving all of the many voices of the Vietnam War to make sure future generations can develop a more complete understanding of this history.

The Vietnam Archive has also created the Virtual Vietnam Archive, which provides free online access to these historical resources available at Texas Tech University. Started in 2001, the Virtual Archive now includes more than three million pages of digitized material to include documents, maps, photographs, audio recordings, films, and artifacts. The Virtual Vietnam Archive has become one of the most important international research tools for anyone studying the Vietnam War and we now host more than one million online research sessions every year. As a result, the Vietnam Archive has been used by a wide range of students, scholars, veterans, military and government officials, documentarians, and countless others to gain insight to an era that brought about lasting and significant change to our society and continues to affect us today.



# Oral History Project

In 1999, the Vietnam Center and Archive also addressed the desperate need to capture the living voices of Americans and others who participated in these events through the collection and preservation of oral history interviews. The experience of the Vietnam War and activities in Southeast Asia can be described in many ways. To some, it was part of a global contest between opposing ideologies, political systems, and military forces. Others view the conflict as a monumental tragedy in which the failure of diplomacy and American leadership resulted in the deaths of over 58,000 Americans and millions of Vietnamese. Still others believe that the war was fought for noble goals and that the American combatants exhibited the greatest of human traits: bravery, sympathy, and the determination to bring about a better world. While the material record of the war addresses many of these issues, many unique and important perspectives of these events would be lost if not for oral history interviews.

To address this challenge, the Vietnam Archive has a dedicated Oral History Project that conducts interviews with those who experienced the war, and who lived through the era. Like all aspects of the Vietnam Center and Archive, the Oral History Project strives to include all voices, including both military and civilian personnel who were in Southeast Asia and at support facilities around the world. Also included are the voices of men and women who were active in the United States either in support of or in opposition to the war, as well as the voices of South and North Vietnamese, Thais, Lao, and many others.

The Oral History Project currently has over 2,000 participants from the United States and around the world, and provides free Internet access to over 600 interviews in both streaming audio and transcript formats. The project includes a dedicated staff of full-time oral historians and a transcription staff, and works with numerous volunteers and veteran's organizations to help capture the experiences of American men and women who served in military, government, and civilian agencies. For the decades and centuries to come, these unique interviews will continue to add a vital human voice to the material collections in the Vietnam Archive and the history of the Vietnam War.



# TIMELINE OF THE PROJECT

## **MAY 1989:**

First meeting held of local Vietnam veterans to discuss forming an archive to begin collecting local veterans' materials for use by Texas Tech students. At this meeting Dr. E. Dale Cluff, Director of Libraries, established the Vietnam Archive [then called The Archive of the Vietnam Conflict].

## **22 JUNE 1989:**

Formal proposal submitted for establishment of the Vietnam Archive approved by Dr. Cluff, and \$10,000 in initial funding provided by Library.



## **6 NOVEMBER 1989:**

University releases preliminary news release concerning establishment of Vietnam Archive. Series of media events scheduled for 6-11 November.

## **11 NOVEMBER 1989:**

Official announcement issued establishing the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict.

## **2 DECEMBER 1989:**

Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict is formally approved by the Board of Regents.

## **7 MARCH 1990:**

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., accepts Chairmanship of the Vietnam Center National Advisory Council.

## **SEPTEMBER 1990:**

Vietnam Center Advisory Board (Local) holds elections. Results: John Lowey, CEO of Llano Estacado Winery, elected President; Vice President: Colonel Don McCullough, USAF (Ret); Secretary: Larry McAuley

## **22-24 APRIL 1993:**

Vietnam Center hosts first conference: "Vietnam Paris + 20." This later is designated The First Triennial Vietnam Symposium.

## **28 OCTOBER 1993:**

Ambassador William Colby, former Director of Central Intelligence, donates his personal papers to Vietnam Archive.

## **10 FEBRUARY 1994:**

Ground breaking occurs for the new Southwest Collections/Special Collections Library.

## **MAY 1994:**

Volume 1, Issue 1 of the Friends of the Vietnam Center newsletter published. Front page includes photos of Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr, General William Westmoreland, and Ambassador William Colby.



## **29 AUGUST 1994:**

The first 343 boxes of the Douglas Pike Collection arrive at Texas Tech University.

## **31 MARCH – 1 APRIL 1995:**

First annual conference, with idea that these conferences, smaller in scope than the Paris +20 conference would be held in years when no large conference (subsequently reclassified as triennial symposia) was scheduled. The first such conference was called "Vietnam Roundtable On Winning and Losing: The Summers Thesis and the Vietnam War." [Co-hosted with Army War College, but held in Lubbock.]

## **18-20 APRIL 1996:**

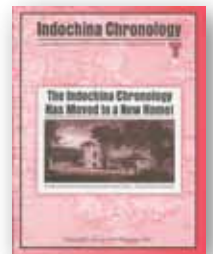
2nd Triennial Vietnam Symposium held in Lubbock, Texas.

## **MARCH 1997:**

Douglas Pike accepts position as Senior Research Fellow at the Vietnam Center. Remainder of the Douglas Pike Collection also arrives at Texas Tech.

## **JANUARY 1998:**

First edition of Indochina Chronology published from Texas Tech.



## **14 APRIL 1999:**

Chancellor John T. Montford unveiled plans for Vietnam Center building.



## **16-18 APRIL 1999:**

Third Triennial Vietnam Symposium with participants from Europe, Australia, Vietnam and the US.

**DECEMBER 2000:**

The Vietnam Archive receives US Congressional Support through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for creation of the Virtual Vietnam Archive.

**11-13 APRIL 2002:**

Vietnam Center hosts Fourth Triennial Vietnam Symposium.

**13 MAY 2002:**

Professor Douglas Pike passes away.

**MAY 2004:**

Vietnam Center receives \$154,000 from the Houston Endowment for purchase of high speed microfilm scanner.

**17-19 MARCH 2005:**

Vietnam Center hosts Fifth Triennial Symposium. Symposium includes panels with members of both Swift Boat Veterans for Truth and the Vietnam Veterans Against the War and covers many other topics.

**19 MARCH 2005:**

Vietnam Center signs Memorandum of Understanding with the Vietnamese American Heritage Foundation (VAHF) of Austin, Texas, to become their official archival repository. VAHF agrees to donate the papers of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association (FVPPA), a collection that chronicles the experiences of more than 12,000 Vietnamese political prisoners, their families, and their journey to the United States.

**19 MARCH 2005:**

Fred and Rob Whitehurst donate the Diaries of Dr. Dang Thuy Tram. Dr. Tram's mother and sisters visit the Vietnam Center to view the diaries in October, 2005.

**MAY 2005:**

Vietnam Archive receives a grant from the National Film Preservation Lab to preserve Vietnam War film footage of Dong Tam Base Camp of the William Foulke Collection, Department of the Army Special Photographic Office.

**JANUARY 2006:**

Vietnam Archive receives donation of four Vietnam Era helicopters from Mr. Chuck Carlock of Fort Worth, Texas, a Vietnam veteran and helicopter pilot during the war.

**JUNE 2006:**

Vietnam Archive receives grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to fund processing of the records of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association (FVPPA).

**SEPTEMBER 2007:**

Dr. Stephen Maxner becomes director of the Vietnam Center, replacing Dr. James Reckner, who is named Executive Director of the newly established Institute for Modern Conflict, Diplomacy and Reconciliation, of which the Vietnam Center becomes a part.

**13-15 MARCH 2008:**

Vietnam Center hosts Sixth Triennial Symposium.

**28 MAY 2008:**

FVPPA Collection opened to researchers.

**JANUARY 2009:**

Dr. James Reckner retires. Dr. Dennis Patterson is named as Interim Executive Director of the Institute for Modern Conflict, Diplomacy and Reconciliation.

**28 MAY 2009:**

Vietnam Center 20th Anniversary Ball with guest speaker H. Ross Perot, Sr.

## FUTURE OF THE PROJECT

For the past two decades, the Vietnam Center and Archive have been committed to preserving the history of United States experience in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. Of equal importance, we have remained dynamically involved in promoting the study of that experience. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our founder Dr. James Reckner and to our countless supporters from around our nation and around the globe. They are far too numerous to name here but are essential to our past, current, and continued success.

Among our most important supporters remain our nation's Vietnam Veterans and other participants in the events surrounding the Vietnam War. Men and women who served in the military branches, in civilian and government agencies and organizations, or who were active in other ways during those tumultuous events have entrusted us with their treasures – their personal records, letters, diaries, photo albums and so much more. We are now and will always remain committed to preserving their history with the respect and honor it deserves. Our commitment will remain that we will collect and preserve the history of these events and experiences from all perspectives. Our goal will remain to provide as full a record as possible of these historical events for the benefit of future generations.

As a result, our future plans and goals must include broadening the collection and study of the Vietnam War and Vietnam experience to include groups of participants who are up to now not as well represented in the history of those events. Of particular importance, we must develop better programs that will preserve the history of the former Republic of Vietnam. We are blessed with Vietnamese Americans throughout our nation who can share with us an essential part of this story yet they comprise a very small group of participants in our projects. We have enjoyed some recent and very important success in our work with the Vietnamese American Heritage Foundation and the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association. But much work remains if we hope to preserve an accurate record of their history as our allies in war and now as our fellow American citizens.

The Vietnam Center and Archive also remain committed to the academic mission of Texas Tech University and work closely with many other departments and centers on campus. Key to our future support of academic programs is our new parent organization, the Institute for Modern Conflict, Diplomacy, & Reconciliation, and our new sister organization, the Center and Archive for War & Diplomacy in the Post-Vietnam War Era. Together with Army and Air Force ROTC, we are contributing to new and important academic programs at Texas Tech that focus on Global and Strategic Studies and International Affairs. The tremendous successes of the Vietnam Center and Archive serve as the foundation for these new and exciting programs, of which we are very proud to be a part.

Another important goal for our project must remain the development of a new facility at Texas Tech University that will house the Vietnam Center, Archive, and a new Museum. This must become an essential goal for us, not just for our project or our university, but for us as a nation. The Vietnam War was the most divisive and important American event of the latter half of the 20th Century. No other event from 1950-1999 had such a powerful impact throughout the entirety of American society. Yet despite the importance of these events, and perhaps because of the divisiveness they caused, our nation remains without a National Vietnam War Museum. We are four decades from the cessation of hostilities yet there is no museum in our nation where our young men and women can learn about the service and sacrifice of our nation's Vietnam veterans. There is no place where they can learn about events that continue to have a tremendous impact on our nation.

With the support we continue to receive from local, state, and national supporters, the future of the Vietnam Center and Archive remain very bright. However, the future of the history of the Vietnam War will remain less so without a national commitment to commemorate the events of that war and era through the creation of a National Vietnam War Museum. Such a national monument would have no better home than on the campus of this great university and in the great State of Texas.





It started humbly, as a simple bundle of letters written by a soldier to his mother. But every letter told a bit of the soldier's story. For 20 years now, the Vietnam Center and Archive has collected similar stories, creating one of the world's greatest repositories of information on the Vietnam War and providing millions of windows through which scholars can peer into one of America's most dramatic sagas. Whether it's the stories of GIs or Vietcong, of generals or protesters, the history of the Vietnam War is more accurately reflected thanks to the Vietnam Center and Archive.

Congratulations.  
Office of the President

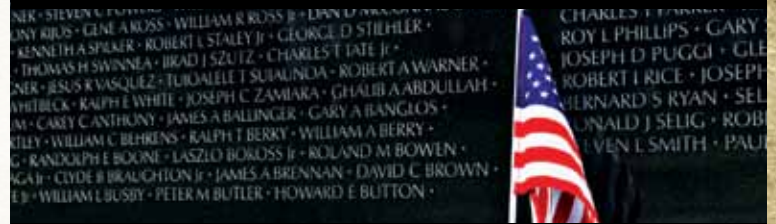


Alejandro R. Montanez  
Sgt. E-5 RA19839390 91B20  
Republic of Vietnam  
January 1968-1969  
45th Medical Company "DUSTOFF"

EVERY MAN KNOWS THE VALOR OF HIS DEEDS  
OR THE DISHONOR OF HIS MISDEEDS  
FOR HE AND ONLY HE  
MUST LIVE WITH THE  
TRUTH  
WHICH LIES DEEP WITHIN  
TIGHTLY GRASPING  
HIS HEART AND SOUL  
-ARM-

From your friend and colleague Dr. Lee Little Soldier,  
Professor Emerita, Texas Tech University

Because they are more than names on a wall...



There can be no greater memorial to those who fought and died in Vietnam than the preservation of all sides of the conflict that nearly tore our nation asunder.

Thanks to the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech, future generations can know the stories of those who served, who governed and who protested.

*Phil Price*

Phil Price  
2009: CEO, The Price Group, Inc.  
1969: 2LT, Infantry, Vietnam

Price Group

McELHANNON GROUP, INC.



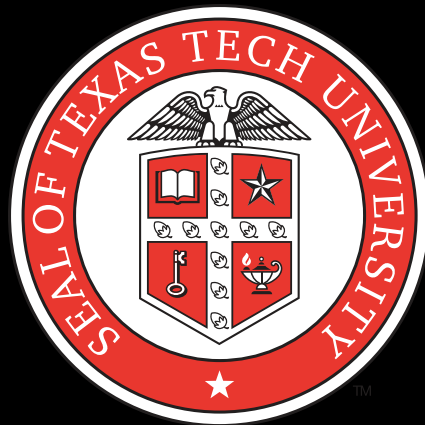
PHILIP M. WORLEY  
PRESIDENT  
MCELHANNON GROUP, INC.

IN HONOR OF  
GEORGE LAUDENSCHLAGER  
BURNET, TEXAS

US ARMY. E-5. IV CORPS. 1969 TO 1971.  
IN VIET NAM 1970 TO 1971.  
CAN THO, VINH LONG.  
ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL  
ARMY OCCUPATIONAL MEDAL  
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL  
VIET NAM SERVICE MEDAL  
VIET NAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL  
2 OVERSEAS BARS

In honor of Robert C. Ordoñez,  
M.D., who served as a Navy  
Corpsman in the field with the  
Marines of the 3rd Battalion,  
1st Regiment of the 1st Marine  
Division, 1970.

Clint and Siva Chambers



*The Office of the Provost at Texas Tech University  
congratulates the Vietnam Center and Archive on  
its 20th Anniversary and extends all best wishes for  
its continuing success in the future*

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