



**DEAR UNSUNG HEROES,**

**YOU CAME FROM A FAR AWAY LAND,  
TO HELP ME FIGHT FOR MY FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE,  
ALAS, WE BOTH LOST,  
YOU, YOUR YOUTHFUL LIVES  
AND I, MY BELOVED COUNTRY.**

**ALTHOUGH I DID NOT KNOW YOU THEN,  
I VALUED YOUR COURAGE AND SACRIFICE,  
YOU DID NOT KNOW ME EITHER,  
ALTHOUGH THAT DID NOT DETER YOU  
FROM FIGHTING A JUST WAR,  
AGAINST AGGRESSION AND OPPRESSION.**

**YOU LEFT YOUR PEACEFUL HOMES  
TO FIGHT IN THE SWAMPY SOUTHERN REGIONS,  
OR THE RUGGED MOUNTAINS OF CENTRAL VIETNAM,  
TRYING TO PROTECT US FROM A CERTAIN SLAUGHTER,  
AND TO BUILD A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.**

**THIRTY FIVE YEARS AFTER THE FALL OF SAIGON,  
I STOOD IN FRONT OF THE MONUMENT,  
TO PAY HOMMAGE TO YOU, AND  
TO LET YOU KNOW YOUR SACRIFICE WAS NOT IN VAIN,  
FOR IT STANDS TALL IN OUR HEARTS  
FOR A THOUSAND YEARS TO COME.**

**MEMORIAL DAY 2010**

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