



## NEWSLETTER

*Saigon Arts Culture & Education Institute*  
To Research, Document & Promote Vietnamese Culture  
[www.sacei07.org](http://www.sacei07.org)

June 2010 - No.20

### *A Country stays Alive when its Culture is Alive'*

SACEI NEWSLETTER is released the first week of the month.  
It updates you on the latest news about SACEI.  
It serves as a LINK between SACEI members and those who  
are interested in the Vietnamese or Vietnamese-American culture.

**Disclaimer.** Publication in this newsletter of a book title or a film  
does not mean endorsement or approval by SACEI.

#### I. Second Annual SACEI Fall Conference

## *The FALL of SAIGON*

September 25, 2010  
Tysons Corner, VA.

A look at the Vietnam War 35 years later and its harrowing consequences:  
April 30, concentration camps, diaspora, and the rise of the Vi ệt Ki ều.  
A look at the young generation:

## *A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE*

### TENTATIVE PROGRAM

1. **Panel I: CAUSES**
2. **Panel II: IDENTITY, SIGNIFICANCE**
3. **LUNCH. TRADITIONAL MUSIC**
4. **Youth Section: BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE**
5. **Panel III: APRIL 30, 1975**
6. **Panel IV: DIASPORA**

## II. MEMORIAL DAY 2010

### DEAR ARVN HEROES,

YOU CAME FROM ALL THE WALKS OF LIFE,  
FARMERS, MERCHANTS, PROFESSIONALS,  
TO ANSWER TO THE CALL OF DUTY,  
TO DEFEND OUR COUNTRY AGAINST  
AGGRESSION.

YOU FOUGHT IN THE MOUNTAINS AND THE  
DELTA,  
YOU WON AND LOST MANY BATTLES,  
YOU RESISTED DESPITE PAIN AND MISERY,  
RAIN OR SHINE, DAY OR NIGHT.

A BULLET TORE YOU APART,  
A YOUTHFUL AND PROMISING LIFE CUT SHORT  
WITH HONOR, THE NATION LAID YOU TO REST.  
TAKING TURNS, WE FOUGHT ON BUT LOST.

MANY ENDED UP IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS,  
WHILE OTHERS ESCAPED ABROAD.

REST IN PEACE, DEAR HEROES,  
OUR COUNTRYMEN WILL CONTINUE THE FIGHT,  
FOR THE CAUSE IS NOT LOST  
UNTIL THE LAST OF US DIES.

*SACEI*



### 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.

SACEI

### *Hồi Chiến sĩ Hùng Kiệt Việt Nam Cộng Hoà*

*các anh tới từ mọi bước cuộc đời  
nhà nông, thương gia, chuyên nghiệp  
để trân trọng nghĩa vụ thiêng liêng  
bảo vệ tổ quốc chống nạn xâm lăng vượt tuyến*



*các anh lâm chiến từ núi cao tới đồng bằng  
lúc được lúc thua nơi trận mạc  
chống đỡ bằng thương tích và thống khổ  
dù nắng dù mưa dù đêm dù ngày*

*một viên đạn xé xác các anh từng mảnh  
cắt đứt cuộc đời nhựa sống niềm tin  
đất nước tiễn chôn các anh trong danh dự  
và chúng tôi còn tiếp chiến cho tới khi thua trận  
kẻ bị đoạ đày công trường cải tạo  
kẻ phải ra đi lê bước nơi quê người*

*hồi chiến sĩ hùng kiệt hãy yên nghỉ  
đồng bào ta vẫn tiếp nói cuộc chiến hằng ngày  
vì chính nghĩa còn nguyên vẹn chưa mất hẳn  
cho tới khi người cuối cùng chúng ta gục ngã*

**Lưu Nguyễn Đạt**

[chuyển thi ngữ: "Dear ARVN Heroes", nhà thơ Võ Nghĩa]

*Chers Héros de l'Armée de la République du Vietnam*

*vous êtes venus de toutes parts de la vie  
fermiers, commerçants, professionnels  
pour rallier à l'appel du devoir  
de défendre notre pays contre l'agression*

*vous vous êtes battus en montagnes et au delta  
perdant et gagnant combien de batailles  
vous avez résisté malgré peines et misères  
sous le soleil ou la pluie de jour ou de nuit*

*une balle vous déchira en morceaux  
tranchant votre vie de jeunesse et d'espoir  
la nation vous enterrait en honneur  
et tour à tour nous avons continué et perdu la guerre  
nombreux d'entre nous avons été aux camps de concentration  
et d'autres avons échappé outre mer*

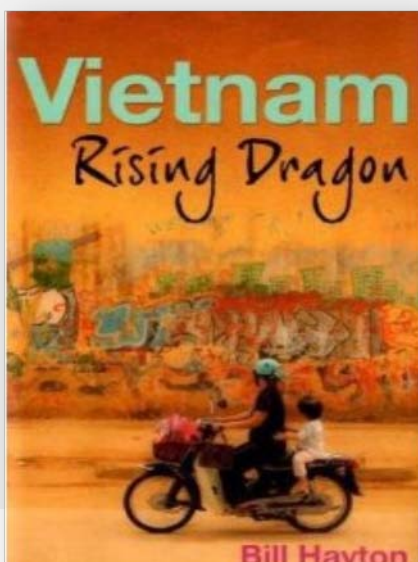
*reposez vous en paix chers héros  
nos compatriotes continueront la lutte  
car la cause n'en est pas perdue  
jusqu'au dernier brave entre nous ne meure*

**Luu Nguyen Dat**

[adaptation poétique/"Dear ARVN HEROES" par Nghia Vo]

[www.vietthuc.org](http://www.vietthuc.org)

### III. BOOK



The eyes of the West have recently been trained on China and India, but Vietnam is rising fast among its Asian peers. A breathtaking period of social change has seen foreign investment bringing capitalism flooding into its nominally communist society, booming cities swallowing up smaller villages, and the lure of modern living tugging at the traditional networks of family and community. Yet beneath these sweeping developments lurks an authoritarian political system that complicates the nation's apparent renaissance. In this engaging work, experienced journalist Bill Hayton looks at the costs of change in Vietnam and questions whether this

rising Asian power is really heading toward capitalism and democracy.

#### IV. THE TALE OF KIEU MUSICAL

[http://www.taleofkieu.com/Home\\_Page.html](http://www.taleofkieu.com/Home_Page.html)

**The original *Tale of Kieu*** is a Vietnamese Epic Poem written by Nguyen Du (1766–1820), and is widely regarded as the most significant work within Vietnamese literature. The poem recounts the life, trials and tribulations of Thúy Kieu, a beautiful and talented young woman, who had to sacrifice herself to save her family. She unwittingly sold herself as a prostitute to save her father and younger brother from prison.

**The *Tale of Kieu*** has been acclaimed internationally and selected as one of the study pieces within many universities. Many scholars feel that the poet, Nguyen Du, used *The story of Kieu* to relate to his own life. For example: Kieu sold herself to settle her family debt ; whereas Nguyen Du considered the action of joining the new Vietnamese government as selling his own integrity. Kieu had to endure suffering and hardships; Nguyen Du suffered greatly due to his loyalty to his former king. Kieu stays faithful in her heart, to her first love, Kim Trong; Nguyen Du kept his loyalty to the Le Dynasty. Finally Kieu was reunited with Kim Trong and in like manner, Nguyen Du hoped for the return of his King.

**The *Tale of Kieu*** is a story about a woman’s survival, perseverance, and compassion against incredible odds.

#### V. Dr. Mylene Huynh promoted Colonel

[http://www.defense.gov/forceforgood/index\\_0508%282%29.html](http://www.defense.gov/forceforgood/index_0508%282%29.html)



Director of International Health Specialist Program Pentagon

**Panels: Breaking the Silos: Collaborations that Impact Complex Global Health Issues**

Lt Col (Dr.) Mylene Tran Huynh is the director of the Air Force Medical Service (AFMS) International Health Specialist (IHS) program, Office of the Air Force Surgeon General. In this capacity, Lt Col Huynh provides policy, guidance and oversight to 65 full-time IHS personnel in the 15 geographic locations world-wide and over 150 Air Force medical personnel with IHS Special Experience Identifiers.

The Air Force IHS teams are engaged in building global health partnerships and partner capacity through both military-military and military-civilian health engagement. Through the IHS program, the

AFMS develops a cadre of medics with foreign language skills, cross-cultural competency, expertise in regional geopolitical affairs and interagency coordination processes.

Lt Col Huynh completed her undergraduate and medical doctorate degree at the University of Virginia and is board certified by both the American College of Preventive Medicine and the American Academy of Family Practice. Lt Col Huynh has served as Active Duty in the United States Air Force for over 18 years. She has led over 25 health-related exchanges in 15 countries.

## VI. THE YELLOW FLAG IN HOUSTON

### H.C.R. No. 258 CONCURRENT RESOLUTION



*It's yellow and called the "Freedom and Heritage Flag".*

WHEREAS, The display of the flag of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the central campus of the University of Houston, as well as on other campuses of higher learning, has caused great distress to many members of the Vietnamese American community; and WHEREAS, This flag, which features a yellow star on a red background, was first adopted by the Indochinese Communist Party in the mid-20th century; it represents a source of anguish to countless people who fled to the United States as a welcoming haven of liberty and tolerance; to these esteemed citizens, the display of this flag is interpreted as a lack of respect for their historic struggles; and WHEREAS, In contrast, the Freedom and Heritage Flag symbolizes both the Vietnamese

cultural heritage and a deeply rooted resilience and yearning for democracy; this flag, which bears three red stripes on a background of golden yellow, was flown for the first time at a ceremony marking the official recognition by France of Vietnamese unity and independence; and WHEREAS, The University of Houston and other institutions of higher learning can express their respect for Vietnamese American culture and their support for the ideals of liberty and democracy by replacing the flag of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with the Freedom and Heritage Flag; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas hereby urge the University of Houston and other institutions of higher education to cease displaying the red flag of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and to instead fly the golden yellow Freedom and Heritage Flag that has been embraced by the Vietnamese American community; and, be it further RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official copy of this resolution to the commissioner of higher education as an expression of the sentiment of the house of representatives and senate.

