

# Vietnam Film Club

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Letter from George J. Veith

Author of the books "*Code-Name Bright Light: The Untold Story of U.S. POW Rescue Efforts During the Vietnam War*", "*Leave No Man Behind: Bill Bell and the Search for American POW/MIAs from the Vietnam War*" and "*Black April: The Fall of South Vietnam, 1973-75*"

Dear BinhAn

I salute your important work to document the story of the Bien Hoa Cemetery. It is critical to record the history of this important memorial to the fallen South Vietnamese military, and just as important, its desecration by the Communists. I wish your film great success, and I hope it is seen far and wide by many people. I sincerely hope that this film will force the Communists to provide better care and maintenance to graves of the brave South Vietnamese soldiers, who gave their lives in defense of their country.

Sincerely,

George J. Veith

### Letter from Richard Botkin

Author of the book "*Ride The Thunder: A Vietnam War Story of Honor and Triumph*"

Dear Peace,

Yes, of course I support your noble efforts completely. If there is anything I can do to assist your effort, let me know what it is, and I will attempt to do it. If you need our "blessing" for your project, you already have it.

Thank you and God bless you.

Richard Botkin

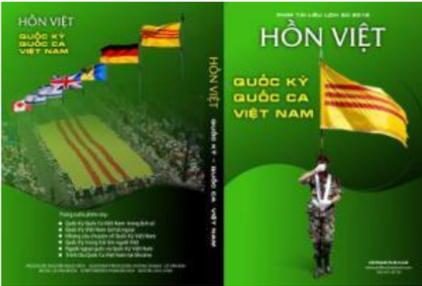
## VIETNAM FILM CLUB DOCUMENTARY

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

Vietnam Film Club – P.O. Box 5036, Springfield, VA 22150, USA  
Email: [vnfilmclub@gmail.com](mailto:vnfilmclub@gmail.com) - Phone: (703) 732-3194

# THE SOUL OF VIETNAM

## National Flag – National Anthem of Vietnam



When asked, "What has inspired VFC to make a documentary on the Vietnamese National Flag?" the late professor Nguyễn Ngọc Bích replied: "To some people, a national flag is just a symbol. That may be true. But I would never recommend anyone to take that symbol lightly. Because if

*it didn't matter, why would all nation honor their own flags? That symbol has endured through time. The flag has always been there despite the rise and fall of many regimes. The National Flag, or rather "the colors of the flag" - define who we are. Obviously, it is not just a piece of cloth with some colors; it has a power to touch the very depth of our souls whenever we see it".*

Released in 2012, VFC's 57-minute documentary "The Soul of Vietnam" has 9 parts: • A brief history of the Vietnamese National Flag (yellow flag with three red stripes) • A brief history of the Vietnamese National Anthem • The National Flag goes abroad with refugees fleeing Vietnam after the Fall of Saigon in 1975 • The National Flag and Vietnamese people overseas • The Vietnamese National Flag all over the world • Stories of the Vietnamese National Flag • The Vietnamese National Flag in people's hearts • The Vietnamese National Flag with foreigners • Recital of the RVN National Anthem in Kiev, capital of Ukraine.

Virginia was the first State to recognize the "yellow flag" with Act H 1475 on April 15, 2004. Up to 2016, 140 local governments in the United States have recognized this flag as the "Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag" of the Vietnamese-American community.

The Republic of Vietnam's National Anthem was arranged for orchestra symphony by music composer Lê Văn Khoa. It was first performed on aircraft carrier Midway on April 30th, 2010, then in Washington D.C. In the documentary "The Soul of Vietnam", it was performed by the President's Military Band of Ukraine, with much deeper and more beautiful resolution.

# DISASTER of the CHINESE INVASION



The documentary "Disaster of the Chinese Invasion" was released in June 2015, marking 25 years since the Vietnamese and Chinese Communist Parties resumed diplomatic ties after the 1979 bloody border war, also a starting point where Vietnam was irresistibly drawn into the orbit of its Northern neighbor.

The documentary consists of two main parts:

- Part I – Vietnam-China relationship from 1975 to 1990, focusing on China's blatant invasions of Paracels and Spratly Islands.
- Part II – Vietnam-China relationship since 1990. This part includes four issues: (1) Communist China unveiled; (2) Communist Vietnam unveiled; (3) Serious conflicts within mainland China; (4) Reactions of countries in the world toward China's aggressive attitude.

Five leaders (Nguyen Van Linh, Do Muoi, Le Kha Phieu, Nong Duc Manh, Nguyen Phu Trong) have all given in to pressures from the North, offering their submission to foreign invaders in exchange for the exclusive power of the Vietnamese Communist party.

To collect evidence of a disaster looming over the lives of millions of people, Vietnam Film Club made 21 interviews with Western specialists and Vietnamese witnesses (in Vietnam and abroad).

Among the interviewees: ●Davis Satter, Director of *The Age of Delirium* ●Professor Stephen Young of Hamline University (MN) who is fluent in Vietnamese language and thoroughly understands Vietnam's history of resistance against foreign rulers ●Professor Carlyle Thayer, a specialist on international and Southeast Asian geopolitical issues ●Journalist Bui Tin, former assistant editor of Nhan Dan newspaper, who disclosed a secret agreement by the Vietnamese Communist Party to China's 1974 invasion of Paracels Islands (then under the sovereignty of the Republic of Vietnam).

Based on pieces of evidence provided by witnesses, documents collected from various sources and analyses made by specialists, VFC's documentary sends out the warning of an imminent danger: The Vietnamese Communist Party is joining hands with the Chinese Communist Party to turn Vietnam into a modern colony of Beijing. That disastrous fate can only be avoided if the Vietnamese people stand up to eliminate the Communist regime.

*"All regimes come and go, but the People remain everlasting"*

# The NHÂN VĂN-GIAI PHÂM Affair



May 1955 marked the initial campaign launched by a group of intellectuals within the Viet Minh Front (Vietnamese Communist Party's prior name) to demand intellectual freedom. Their campaign became public in February 1956 with the publication of *Giai Pham Mua Xuan*, then in September 1956 with the *Nhan Van* bi-monthly magazine featuring stronger articles calling for freedom. The *Nhan Van-Giai Pham* movement was finally crushed down in June 1958. Many intellectuals were imprisoned (Hoang Cam, Tran Dan, Le Dat, Phan Khoi, Tran Duc Thao, etc.) Years later, although some survivors were no longer persecuted, the true story of *Nhan Van-Giai Pham* remains hidden by the Communist Party to this day.

## The LAND REFORM



Summer of 1952: upon returning from China and Soviet Union, Ho Chi Minh gave an order to start the "Land Reform Policy", using a motto for propaganda: "Better kill ten innocent people than miss out on a single enemy". Hundreds of thousands of people labeled *landlords* were considered "*enemies of the people*" and must be "*dug to the core, abolished to the roots*", hence tortured, executed, or left starving to death in prison. Even children and grandchildren of those victims were to be treated as traitors.

Among victims of the "Land Reform Policy" was the old lady Nguyen Thi Năm (aka Cát Hanh Long) who had been praised by many communist cadres as a godmother. Following the Chinese advisors' warning, "A tiger and a tigress are both predators", Mrs. Nam was accused and executed despite her renowned generous assistance to the Viet Minh Front.

Only after several uprisings in Bui Chu-Phat Diem by people who were furious at the "Land Reform" unjust policy, Ho Chi Minh and the Vietnam Labor Party (Vietnamese Communist Party's prior name) had to announce their "Correction Policy". Up to 1956, unofficial estimates of those killed in the Land Reform range from 200,000 to 900,000. Throughout the history of Vietnam, no mass killings has ever been as horrible as this purge that directly targeted unarmed people. Apart from the brutal extermination of innocent lives, the "Land Reform" also undermined Vietnam's humane tradition and destroyed all ethical and spiritual values of the Vietnamese culture.



## The Massacre in Hue

Spring 1968: thousands of civilians of Hue were killed in less than a month when North Vietnam army troops occupied the city. 5,300 victims were buried alive. 2,326 skulls were later found in mass graves at 22

different locations. The massacre only ended when troops of South Vietnam Army and U.S. Army fought back and restored peace to Hue. To this day, the 1968 massacre in Hue (also known as The Tet Offensive) remains unrecognized and entirely ignored by the Vietnamese communist government.



## The Massacre in Cai Lậy

On March 9, 1974, at 2:55 pm, Viet Cong troops launched a 82mm mortar attack targeting the Cai Lay elementary school in the district of Dinh Tuong (Tien Giang province). 32 students were killed and 55

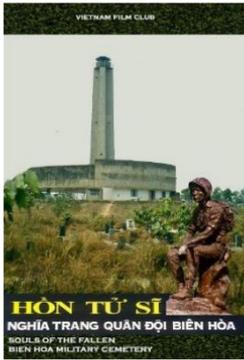
others severely wounded. It should be noted that a previous attack was aimed at Song Phu elementary school in the district of Binh Minh (Vinh Long province, near Ba Cang military camp) in 1972, resulting in many deaths of students. Unfortunately, images from those horrible killings were never made public by Western media, nor stored in any public archives.



## Communist Concentration Camps

After the Fall of Saigon on April 30th, 1975, all ARVN officers, religious leaders, RVN government employees and

American companies' employees in South Vietnam were told to report for a "re-education course of new policies" that would last two weeks. However, once reported, they were all detained for many years. Many died in those "Bamboo Gulags" of hunger, diseases, hard labor, even execution. Their spouses and children were expelled from their residences and forced to go to "new economic zones", a new form of exile from large cities.



## SOULS OF THE FALLEN BIEN HOA MILITARY CEMETERY

The Bien Hoa Military Cemetery was established in 1965 as burial grounds for ARVN fallen soldiers who gave their lives to defend the country (1954-1975).

Intended for inauguration on June 19, 1975, the Cemetery was a major construction project of the government of the Republic of Vietnam that involved several agencies and

was based on the "Bee" shape design as a symbol for loyalty:

*Like the bees that serve their only queen bee,  
Soldiers fight and die for just one nation's flag*

When Chu Lynh - co-founder and editor of Vietnam Film Club - returned to Vietnam on a family trip in 2003, he decided to stop by Bien Hoa Military Cemetery. Despite prohibitions, he managed to get inside and took risks to record some short video clips of a mercilessly abandoned and intentionally destroyed and invaded cemetery. This sorrowful experience drove him to write an article, "*Whose Souls Are In The Wind?*" But not until ten years later did he have a chance to work on a documentary of the Cemetery.

It is an honor for Vietnam Film Club to recognize the valuable contribution of various members and special guests to the making of this bi-lingual, 45-minute documentary, which is professor Nguyễn Ngọc Bích's final project. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to:

- *The Honorable Alan Lowenthal, U.S. Congressman*
- *Mr. Dan Southerland, Executive Editor, Radio Free Asia*
- *Mr. George J. Veith, Author of the book Black April*
- *Mr. Richard Botkin, Author of the book Ride The Thunder*
- *Mr. Fred Koster, Director of the documentary Ride The Thunder*

The Bien Hoa Military Cemetery must be preserved, not only as a historic site of Vietnam but also as a reflection of the values of sympathy and humanity in Vietnam's culture, a traditional belief of Vietnamese people that those who are living should be cared for and those who died should be respected -- or to quote an old saying:

"A House for the Living, A Grave for the Dead"

<https://youtu.be/Ahwb7gF5VPw>

VFC - Hồn Tử Sĩ - Nghĩa Trang Quân Đội Biên Hòa



# NGUYỄN NGỌC BÍCH (1937-2016)

Professor Nguyễn Ngọc Bích was an accomplished scholar, a proud teacher and publisher of Vietnamese literature, culture and history, a humble and loyal public servant of the South Vietnam and U.S. governments.

Between 1971 and the fall of Saigon in April 1975, he served the South Vietnam government successively as Director of Foreign Press Directorate under the Ministry of "Information, War Mobilization and Open Arms [Repatriation for Viet Cong soldiers]".

From 1991 to 1993, he joined the George H. W. Bush administration as Deputy, then Acting Director, OBEMLA (Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs), U.S. Department of Education. Starting in 1988, he joined a team of lobbyists urging the U.S. Congress to fund the second-generation Radio Free Asia (RFA) to broadcast to Vietnam, among other communist countries in Asia. As a result, President Bill Clinton and Congress enacted the incorporation of present-day RFA in March 1996. In 1997, he joined RFA as the first Director of the Vietnamese Service at Radio Free Asia in Washington DC.

Nguyễn Ngọc Bích is the author of a number of acclaimed books mainly in English, demonstrating the great pride he holds for his Vietnamese heritage and documenting his lifelong fight against Communism in Vietnam.

Nguyễn Ngọc Bích died of a massive heart attack on March 2, 2016 during his flight from Washington, D.C. to Manila, Philippines, where he was scheduled to attend a regional conference on the ongoing South China Sea dispute to present his study of history and to lay his claims for Vietnam to the Spratly and Paracel Islands.

When Prof. Nguyễn Ngọc Bích co-founded Vietnam Film Club in 2010, he elaborated his viewpoint, "*Since young people nowadays prefer movies to books, if we want to tell them the real history (of Vietnam) we must use motion pictures, in this case, documentary movies*".



# **VIETNAM FILM CLUB**

## **DOCUMENTARY**

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

**Vietnam Film Club (VFC), an independent documentary film production company, was founded on September 25, 2010 by the late Professor Nguyễn Ngọc Bích (Producer) [1937-2016] and Chu Lynh (Editor).**

**VFC uses the power of cinematography to provide viewers with documentaries on the roots of the Vietnam War and factual reports or records of historical events that have been deliberately altered, omitted or misrepresented by news media or dictatorships.**

**In addition to documents and proofs, VFC's films feature intensive interviews with people in Vietnam and abroad as well as Western specialists who have extensive knowledge of Vietnam and of the world.**

**VFC staff members, who work on a voluntary and self-sufficient basis, are limited in numbers. However, a network has been successfully set up among Vietnamese communities worldwide to assist VFC in many aspects – contributions of documents, transportations, making connections for interviews with witnesses and specialists, local previews etc.**

**After being released, all VFC's documentaries are uploaded on YouTube for public viewers, especially people in Vietnam where news media are strictly controlled by the Communist regime.**

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*For further information, please contact:*

**Vietnam Film Club – P.O. Box 5036, Springfield, VA 22150, USA**

**Email: [vnfilmclub@gmail.com](mailto:vnfilmclub@gmail.com) – Phone: (703) 732-3194**