

VETERANS FOR PEACE

ANNUAL TOUR TO VIỆT NAM - SPRING 2015, APRIL 16 TO MAY 2

Each year members of Việt Nam's *Hoa Binh* (Peace) Chapter 160 of Veterans For Peace (VFP) invite up to **20 veterans & non-vet peace activists & spouses** to come to Việt Nam every Spring for an insider's 17-day tour. The *Hoa Binh* chapter is the first & only overseas VFP chapter of American veterans living in Việt Nam!

The mission of the tour is to address the legacies of America's war, as well as visit a beautiful country & form lasting ties of friendship & peace. Therefore each tour participant is asked to bring a minimum of \$1,000 as a donation. The money will go to VFP Chapter 160's humanitarian projects in Việt Nam: bomb clearance, chemical warfare victims, hospitals, orphanages, schools, etc. The group will visit recovery & assistance projects supported by VFP & meet with Việt Nameese families & war veterans struggling with: Agent Orange/Dioxin, Unexploded Ordinance & Poverty. **Bringing the \$1,000 minimum donation is mandatory. We also encourage donations from individuals & their organizations not going on the tour. These non-tour donations have accounted for more than half of the \$110,000 donated so far.**

The *Hoa Binh* Chapter of Veterans For Peace is well-known & respected in Việt Nam. This will be the fourth annual tour. So far 39 people (25 veterans & 14 non-vet spouses & peace activists) have gone on the Spring delegations & delivered \$110,000 in aid - \$65,000 from non-tour folks! **DATES:** Tour dates *in Việt Nam* will be Thursday, April 16 to Saturday, May 2, 2015 & will include the special 40th Anniversary Commemorations of the end of the war on April 30th (1975). We arrange an (optional) group flight from San Francisco for these dates.

TOUR COORDINATORS in Việt Nam:

Suel Jones – Former Marine Việt Nam War combat vet, 1968-69; lives in VN half of each year since 1998; volunteers in Da Nang with Việt Nameese victims of Agent Orange (AO), of whom there are 3 to 4 million nationwide today. President of Veterans For Peace, *Hoa Binh* Chapter 160.
Chuck Searcy – Army VN vet enlisted, military intelligence analyst 1966-69; lives in Ha Noi full time since 1995; International Advisor for ProjectRENEW, which clears UXOs (unexploded ordinance: cluster bombs, landmines, etc.). Vice President of Chapter 160.
Chuck Palazzo – Marine VN combat vet, 1st and 3rd Force Reconnaissance 1970-71; lives full-time in Da Nang since 2008; volunteers with AO victims. Secretary-Treasurer of Ch. 160.

TOUR COORDINATOR in the U.S.:

Nadya Williams –Director of Communications for VFP San Francisco Chapter 69; Active Associate Member since 2003; lived in Việt Nam for 3 months in early 2008.

COST: Participants will pay for 4 things: 1 - In-country tour cost of \$2,300 per person (17 days, 16 nights) all-inclusive, Single Room (if desired) for each person; 2 - Airfare to & from Việt Nam (optional group flight approx. \$1,000); 3 - The \$1,000 Minimum Donation; 4 - Visa fee of \$45.

Please Note: We are all volunteers, no one is paid.

PLEASE SEE Chapter 160 WEB for Tour Photos, Blogs, etc.: www.vfp-vn.ning.com

MAIL DONATIONS or \$200 TOUR DEPOSIT to: Nadya Williams, VFP Volunteer Việt Nam Tour Coordinator; 1436 Grant Avenue, Apt. 10; San Francisco, CA 94133. Checks payable to: "Veterans For Peace, San Francisco Chapter 69" - Memo Line: " Việt Nam" - Deadline Feb 1st. **CREDIT CARD DONATIONS & PAYMENTS**: Contact VFP National Office in St. Louis, MO at Tele: 314-725-6005; E-Mail: virginia@veteransforpeace.org; Web: www.veteransforpeace.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Nadya Williams, VFP Volunteer Spring Tour Coordinator in San Francisco. E-mail: nadyanomad@gmail.com
Telephone: Home Landline: (415) 362-0162; Cell: (415) 845-9492

PART II

List of Veterans For Peace, Hoa Binh (Peace) Chapter 160's PROJECTS in Việt Nam. Donations from annual tour participants, plus non-tour organizational & individual donations, are divided up among these organizations:

< **Tu Du Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon)** - Has a special unit for Agent Orange (AO) Babies & Children; Tu Du has taken in hundreds of abandoned, severely disabled orphans over the years. AO birth defects now continue into the 4th generation!

< **ProjectRENEW** – Founded in 2001, with support from the American Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund & the Quang Tri People's Committee; clears UXOs in Quang Tri Province; also aids victims, teaches children & adults how to be safe & implements income-generating projects for victims & their families; since 2013 has a Prosthetics & Orthotics Mobile Outreach program, which also aids Agent Orange victims.

< **VAVA - Việt Nam Association of Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin** - Helps AO victims in the heavily-sprayed A Luoi ("Ashau") Valley, Quang Tri Province, Nha Trang & throughout Việt Nam; has medical & residential centers, housing construction & poverty-alleviation projects, vocational training, special education programs, etc.

< **DAVA – Da Nang Association of Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin** - A VAVA chapter with a special relationship with VFP Chapter 160; works in heavily-contaminated Da Nang City (home of a former major U.S. base), has day care centers & schools for AO victims.

< **The Friendship Village in Ha Noi** – Founded by an American Việt Nam War veteran; a residential, medical & vocational center for Agent Orange victims, including Việt Nameese war veterans & their disabled children affected by AO.

< **Farm Animal Project** – Provides a cow or water buffalo to Agent Orange-affected farm families in the Hue & A Luoi Valley areas by partnering with Hué University & their "Hearts of Hué" program to fund: purchase of the animal, training in care, materials for the animals' shelter, feed & veterinary care.

There are 4 Primary Ch. 160 Members in Việt Nam Who Organize & Lead the Tours:

Suel Jones – Initiated the Cow/Water Buffalo project; has volunteered for nearly two decades with Agent Orange victims. President of VFP Chapter 160.

Volunteers directly with DAVA, VAVA & the Farm Animal Project.

Chuck Searcy – ProjectRENEW's international adviser since its beginning in 2001. Vice President of Chapter 160.

Volunteers directly with ProjectRENEW, the Farm Animal Project & VAVA.

Chuck Palazzo – Honorary member of DAVA. Secretary-Treasurer of Ch. 160.

Volunteers full-time & directly with DAVA, VAVA & the Farm Animal Project.

Don Blackburn – VN war vet, former Army 1967-68 in Ben Cat and Cam Ranh; returned to Việt Nam in 2004; lived in Ha Noi, Huế, & now lives in Nha Trang; member of the American Committee for The Friendship Village Project in Ha Noi; teaches at VAE (Việt Nam Advanced Education), a language center in Nha Trang; fundraises for an orphanage in Huế, for VAVA & other organizations. Core member of VFP Chapter 160.

Volunteers with The Friendship Village, VAVA, an orphanage in Huế & teaches English in Nha Trang.

"I'm not particularly interested in figures, but in Washington there is a memorial to the U.S. deaths in the Việt Nam War and it is 150 yards long.

If the same memorial was built for the Việt Nameese that were killed it would be 9 miles long."

- Philip Jones Griffiths, British Việt Nam War Photojournalist.