



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Vietnam Center and Archive

The American experience in Vietnam 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.

For over forty years, we as a nation have struggled to define the Vietnam War, to learn from its lessons, and to determine its legacy. Future generations will similarly take up the cause to understand the Vietnam War. Where will they look to find the answers?

Since 1999, the Oral History Project at the Vietnam Center and Archive has been conducting interviews with those who experienced the war, and who lived through the era. We believe it is vital that any true understanding of the war must include the input of those who participated in this historic moment. We strive to include all voices, including both military and civilian personnel who were in Southeast Asia and at support facilities world-wide. We also include those engaged in pro- and anti-war related activities, as well as the Vietnamese point of view from both the communist and anti-communist perspectives.

The Oral History Project has over 2,300 participants from the United States and around the world, and currently has over 1000 interviews available on our website for researchers world-wide. We employ full-time oral historians and a transcription staff, and work with numerous volunteers and veterans organizations to help capture the experiences of American servicemen and women. We will then permanently store the interviews in our electronic archive, as well as make them available on our website. Additionally, each participant will receive a copy of the interview (both audio and transcript) on a CD, at no charge.

It is essential that we continue to reach out to war veterans and wartime civilians in both the U.S. and Vietnam to capture their recollections for use by researchers, as well as for anyone who is interested in a more thorough understanding of the Vietnam War. It is imperative that we record those voices before time takes them away, leaving future generations without that vital personal connection to one of the 20th Century's most controversial, tragic, heroic, and enduring events.

Please help us preserve your history by participating in the Oral History Project at the Vietnam Center and Archive. <http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/oralhistory/>

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