



VFP CHAPTER 160 – Hoà Bình (Peace)

ANNOUNCING OUR 2018 TOUR

VIET NAM “50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION” PEACE TOUR

MARCH 4 - MARCH 21, 2018

Join us for a 50-year look back at 1968 – the Tet Offensive, Khe Sanh, My Lai – as we travel through Viet Nam, north to south.

For the seventh year, Viet Nam's Hoa Binh (Peace) Chapter 160 of Veterans For Peace (VFP) will host a two-week insider tour of a former war-torn country that is now a nation of peace and beauty – Viet Nam. The land is beautiful, the beaches, white sand, and palm trees are inviting, the mountains rugged and resilient – as are the people. The Vietnamese will welcome us with warm embraces and generous spirits. Join VFP for a truly memorable tour, the *second* experience of a lifetime for Vietnam veterans – and a much better one this time!



INTRODUCTION: VFP Chapter 160 is the only American veterans organization with members living and working in Viet Nam, and vets and associate members in the U.S. Our mission is to address the legacies of America’s war. We contribute to the recovery still underway from the war’s consequences: veterans and their families struggling to be safe from unexploded ordnance (UXO), the tragedy of Agent Orange/Dioxin, poverty that is still a burden.

PURPOSE: Each tour participant is asked to bring *at least \$1,000* as a donation which will be pooled at the end of the trip. Participants will vote on how the money is to be disbursed – for bomb clearance and risk education, to help victims of chemical warfare, to support hospitals, orphanages, schools, or other family and community needs.

The \$1,000 donation is mandatory. We encourage additional donations from individuals not joining the tour, their families, neighbors, civic organizations.

IMPACT: Over the past five years, more than \$200,000 has been donated by tour participants and distributed to projects supported by VFP 160 throughout Viet Nam.

TOUR COORDINATORS

ORGANIZERS IN THE USA:



Paul Cox – Cofounder of VFP Ch. 69; VFP 160 member. Board Member of Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign. U.S. Marine Corps, Viet Nam '69-'70. Has returned to Viet Nam three times working on Agent Orange issues.

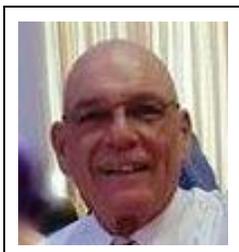


Denny Riley – Treasurer of VFP San Francisco Chapter 69; USAF veteran in Viet Nam 1966-67. Contact point for stateside bookings, payments, donations related to 2018 Viet Nam tour.

HOSTS IN VIET NAM:



Chuck Searcy – U.S. Army vet enlisted, military intelligence analyst in Viet Nam 1967-68; has lived in Ha Noi since 1995; International Advisor for Project RENEW, which clears UXO – cluster bombs, landmines, other munitions along the DMZ in Quang Tri, and assists families suffering from Agent Orange. Vice President of VFP 160.



David E. Clark – U.S. Marine veteran, served in Viet Nam 1969-70; retired and now living fulltime in Da Nang, happily married to Huong (famously known as Ushi), Vietnamese wife and head of a household of five children and several grandchildren. Member of Board of Directors of VFP 160.

FOR INFORMATION AND TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT, CONTACT:

U.S. Tour Coordinator

Paul Cox

Board Member, VFP Chapter 69
890 Camelia St.
Berkeley, CA 94710
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Email paulcox890@comcast.net

Viet Nam Tour Coordinator

Chuck Searcy

Vice President, VFP Chapter 160
71 Tran Quoc Toan
Ha Noi, Vietnam
Cell +8 490 342 0769
Email chuckusvn@gmail.com

DATES AND COSTS

TOUR DATES: 2018 tour dates in Viet Nam: Sunday, March 4th, arrive in Ha Noi; Wednesday, March 21st depart from Ho Chi Minh City. A Group Flight package from San Francisco will be available, leaving the evening of March 2nd.

TOUR COST: Participants pay for: (1) airfare to and from Viet Nam – group flight from San Francisco available as a package option, approximately \$900 to \$1,000; (2) in-country domestic travel and accommodations – 17 nights, 18 days, includes single room, \$2,850; (3) \$1,000 required minimum donation; (4) fee for 30-day one-entry tourist visa, \$80.

Note: VFP tour organizers and hosts are volunteers. No one is paid. The Hanoi travel company which handles in-country arrangements, Viet Dreamland Travel Co., Ltd., gives us discount prices to allow larger donations to go to VFP 160's beneficiaries.

PAYMENTS

PAYMENT DEPOSIT AND DONATIONS: To reserve your place on the tour, an initial \$200 deposit must be submitted by **December 4th** to:

Denny Riley
5519 Plumas Avenue
Richmond, CA 94804
H 510 524 7820
C 510 367 9376
E dennyriley7@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR DEPOSITS: MONDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 2017.

APPLY AND REGISTER HERE: [VFP 2018 TOUR REGISTRATION](#)

OTHER DEADLINES: Apply and Register: NOW!! Get your passport: NOW!!
Airline tickets to San Francisco: Anytime, but the sooner, the cheaper. **Final payment to Denny:** (\$2,850 + \$1,000 = \$3,850) January 10, 2018. [Note that your deposit reduces the final payment by \$200.] **Get your visa from Vietnam Consulate:** January 15, 2018 (instructions to follow). **Scans of your passport and visa to Paul:** January 15, 2018.

CHECKS: Make checks payable to *Veterans For Peace, San Francisco Chapter 69*. Include on memo line: Viet Nam Tour 2018.

CREDIT CARDS: Contact VFP National Office St. Louis, MO for instructions, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CDT on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday:

Shelly Rocket

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TOUR ITINERARY

MARCH 4 - MARCH 21, 2017

(Subject to some changes depending on size of group and availability of hotel rooms – thus the need for sign-up deadlines.)

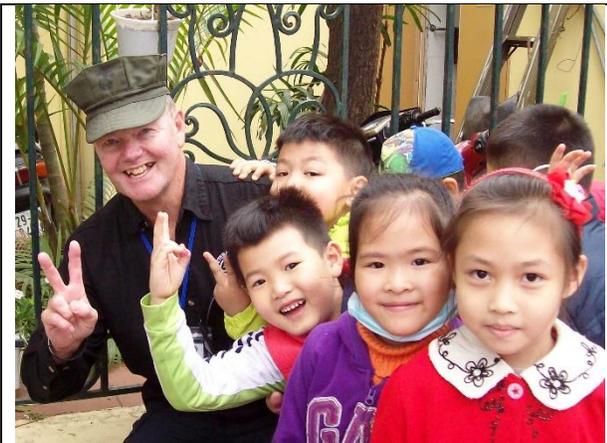
DAY 1 / SUN 04 MAR / SFO - TAIPEI – HANOI



Tour group arrives at Noi Bai International Airport in Ha Noi.

Fly from San Francisco to Taipei to Hanoi, arrive Sunday morning. Lunch, briefing, introductions, then free time on your own for sightseeing, neighborhood walks around hotel and Old Quarter. *Good night's rest guaranteed!*

DAY 2 / MON 05 MAR / HANOI



Viet Nam's kids are wonderful ambassadors.

Visit to Friendship Village for children and Viet Nameese veterans affected by AO, meet Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange (VAVA). Visit Army Museum, Hoa Lo Prison ("Hanoi Hilton"), Women's Museum.

DAY 3 / TUE 06 MAR / HANOI



Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum in Ha Noi Noi, site where President Ho Chi Minh declared Viet Nam's Independence in 1945.

Tour Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, gardens, Uncle Ho's modest house on stilts. Meet with Vietnamese colleagues at the Vietnam-USA Society, Veterans Association of Viet Nam (VAVN), Agent Orange Victims Association (VAVA). Visit historic Temple of Literature. Meet with new U.S. Ambassador at the Embassy residence near the Opera House.



Cyclo ride in the Old Quarter.



Turtle Tower at Hoan Kiem Lake.

DAY 4 / WED 07 MAR / HANOI - HUE - QUANG TRI



Hung Long Church ruin is a grim reminder of the 1972 battle of the Quang Tri Citadel.

Fly to Hue, board comfortable highway coach for drive to Quang Tri Province and the DMZ, visit remnants of the war which are stark reminders of the devastation and destruction that occurred here. Of 3,000 villages that existed before the war, by 1975 just 11 villages had a single building still left standing.

DAY 5 / THU 08 MAR / DONG HA - QUANG TRI - DMZ



Controlled field demolition of ordnance destroyed by Project RENEW EOD team.

Visit Quang Tri Mine Action Visitor Center. See Project RENEW Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams in the field, possibly view a live UXO detonation. Visit Agent Orange / UXO victim families; workshops for blind victims of UXO accidents. Tour the former Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the dividing line between former North and South Viet Nam. Walk through Vinh Moc Tunnels where villagers took shelter from U.S. bombing raids.

DAY 6 / FRI 9 MAR / DONG HA - KHE SANH - A LUOI



Highway traces Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Board coach for drive west on Highway 9 toward Laos, stop at the Truong Son National Cemetery, site of 10,000 graves of Vietnamese war veterans. Pass by Con Thien firebase, the Rockpile, visit Khe Sanh U.S. Marine base near Lao border. Travel scenic Ho Chi Minh Highway to A Luoi where VFP provides cows and pigs for ethnic minority families suffering from Agent Orange.



VFP tour participants at Truong Son National Cemetery, along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, where 10,000 Vietnamese veterans are buried.



Cemetery is nestled among hills and pine trees near the Ben Hai River, former DMZ between North and South Viet Nam.

DAY 7 / SAT 10 MAR / A LUOI - HUE



Family with four severely disabled children whose home was repaired by a VFP donation.

Visit homes of Pac Co and Van Kieu ethnic minority families, victims of Agent Orange, in the A Shau Valley, in the town of A Luoi . Donations from VFP through the “Hearts For Hue” organization have provided families with cows and pigs to breed and raise for income generation to support severely disabled children and family members.



Hue is famous for its Citadel, scene of heavy fighting during the 1968 Tet Offensive.

In Hue, the imperial city for Viet Nam’s emperors, enjoy a guided tour of the historic Citadel. Stroll through pleasant streets of the city along the Perfume River, spanned by a bridge engineered by Gustav Eiffel, designer of the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Dine on unique Hue dishes *bun ba* and other Hue specialties.

DAY 8 / SUN 11 MAR / HUE



Thien Mu Pagoda, built in 1601, where the car is displayed which was driven by the monk who burned himself to death in Saigon to protest the regime of Pres. Ngo Dien Diem.

Meet Buddhist monks who care for children at Chua Duc Son Pagoda and orphanage. Visit Thien Mu Pagoda, Emperor Tu Duc’s Tomb, tour the Citadel where fierce fighting occurred during the 1968 Tet Offensive.

DAY 9 / MON 12 MAR / HUE - DA NANG



Balmy breezes and white beaches.

Meet local VUFO and VAVA representatives who will explain their efforts to deal with the UXO threat and Agent Orange. Lunch at café owned by former ARVN soldier Mr. Phan Cu, now a renowned photographer. Drive south to the white sand beaches of Da Nang over the spectacular Hai Van Pass.

DAY 10 / TUE 13 MAR / HUE - DA NANG



Visit DAVA Center No. 3 so see how children affected by Agent Orange are cared for, with support from VFP contributions. Visit families at home who are suffering from Agent Orange who also receive help from VFP members.

DAY 11 / WED 14 MAR / DA NANG - HOI AN



Hoi An: history, charm, and unique shopping with fine dining.

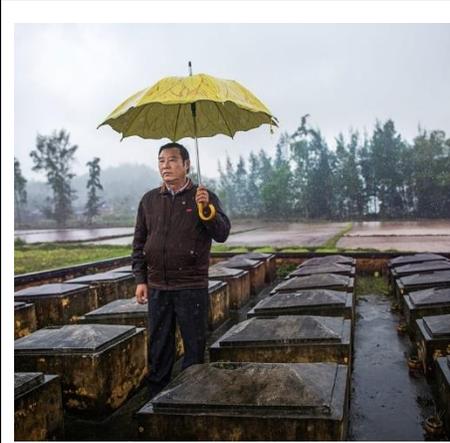
Beach time in Da Nang, relaxing, shopping excursion to Hoi An, 15th century trading port. Custom tailoring for clothes with same day delivery. Or enjoy a side trip to nearby My Son Cham ruins, a 4th century religious sanctuary that is now a UNESCO World Heritage site.

DAY 12 / THU 15 MAR / DA NANG - MY LAI



Two-hour motor coach drive along the coast toward My Lai, check in at Quang Ngai Province's first resort hotel, on the beach. Overnight there, next day join Vietnamese veterans, officials, survivor families and international delegations who will assemble for a solemn ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the My Lai Massacre. Photo at left shows members of 2017 VFP Tour last March, in front of statue commemorating the loss of more than 500 lives that day.

DAY 13 / FRI 16 MAR / MY LAI



VFP delegation will participate in a solemn ceremony at the My Lai Memorial to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the murder of more than 500 villagers by units of the U.S. Army's Americal Division under command of Lt. William Calley, Jr. Photo at left is Mr. Pham Thanh Cong, the director of the My Lai Memorial site. He was 11 years old at the time of the massacre. His mother and four siblings died. "We forgive, but we do not forget," he said.

DAY 14 / SAT 17 MAR / DA NANG - HCM CITY



Saigon City Hall Ho Chi Minh City.

Return to Da Nang Airport and fly to Ho Chi Minh City, which includes the port district of old Sai Gon. Choose among guided tours of the War Remnants Museum, Reunification Palace, the Catholic Church, the historic art deco central post office, City Hall, and other attractions. Shop along Sai Gon's fashionable Dong Khoi Street – formerly Tu Do Street which some veterans will remember from wartime.

DAY 15 / SUN 18 MAR / HCM CITY



Exhibit to be highlighted by conference to include veterans in our delegation.

Opening of exhibition “American Veterans Anti-War Movement,” at the War Remnants Museum. Displays and artifacts of hundreds of underground newspapers, photos, books, and other memorabilia depicting the anti-war movement within the U.S. military. Next day conference on the same topic, with key participation by VFP tour delegation members.

DAY 16 / MON 19 MAR / HCM CITY



Exhibit and conference to be held at the War Remnants Museum.

Special conference at the War Remnants Museum to include U.S. and Vietnamese veterans, former anti-war protesters and resisters who were active in the GI movement within the U.S. military.

DAY 17 / TUE 20 MAR / HCM CITY



Visit Tu Du Hospital’s center for disabled orphans, most of whom are Agent Orange victims. Meet Veterans Association of HCM City. Group meeting to share observations, evaluate trip, and vote on funds distribution. Sightseeing, shopping, relaxing. Final group dinner hosted by Chapter 160 members.



Final stroll through Saigon streets – then it's homeward bound!

Last minute sight-seeing, shopping, gift buying. Hotel checkout, airport coach to Tan Son Nhat International Airport for flight back to USA.

Note: This itinerary may be adjusted to accommodate changes in hotel room availability, travel bookings, and meeting schedules. Based on past tours and current confirmations, this itinerary is not expected to be altered significantly. UPDATES WILL BE ISSUED AS SOON AS CHANGES ARE MADE.

***MEMBERS OF CHAPTER 160,
OUR VIET NAMESE COLLEAGUES
AND OTHER FRIENDS,
LOOK FORWARD TO
WELCOMING YOU TO VIET NAM!***