

Press Release
Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Event: Vietnam: In Their Own Words – Memorial Day
Story Telling at the Vietnam Women's Memorial Statue
Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington D.C.

Date of Event: Memorial Day, May 30, 2011

Time of Event: Event commences at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude in time for the ceremony at The Wall
from 12:30-2:15 p.m.

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(For information or to arrange interviews)

Description of the Event:

Seven years ago at the annual Memorial Day Storytelling, held at the Vietnam Women's Memorial, decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, Allen K. Hoe spoke about his service in Vietnam, and the loss of his son in Iraq. Also on the slate of speakers for the day was Major Paula Coughlin. She had just returned from a tour as a Trauma Nurse Coordinator in Iraq. Different wars, but these two individuals had so much in common. Mr. Hoe would speak about his own memories of war, but he would also share the more recent memories of losing his son, 1Lt. Nainoa Hoe, who had died on January 22, 2005 while serving in Iraq. What happened at Storytelling at the Vietnam Women's Memorial was a miracle. Mr. Hoe met MAJ. Coughlin for the very first time. He discovered she was one of the nurses with his son as he was dying.

Miracles happen every day at the Vietnam Women's Memorial. Built and dedicated 17 years ago as a monument to the bravery and contributions of more than a quarter million women who served during the Vietnam era, this beautiful bronze statue is a tribute to the unsung heroines of the Vietnam War, including among others nurses, Red Cross Workers, journalists, military women and civilians. The Memorial is also a place of healing and remembrance.

Each Veterans Day and Memorial Day people gather to tell their stories. This Memorial Day, May 30, 2011 from 8:30 am until 12:20 pm women and men will share reflections of their time in Vietnam. The stories of the women cast in bronze will come to life as Vietnam veterans, Vietnam era veterans and the people touched by that war speak "in their own voices" about their experiences. Storytellers will be featured every 30 minutes near the site of the Vietnam Women's Memorial. This year's ceremony will combine the stories of those who served during the Vietnam era with the stories of those individuals serving in today's armed conflicts. The lessons learned in the past of bravery, the desire for peace, courage, and sacrifice are being relearned every day. Among the presenters this year will be Red Cross workers who served in Vietnam, a Gold Star wife who lost her husband during the Bosnian conflict, a newspaper columnist who hosted a "Vietnam Mailbag" during the VN conflict, and soldiers and nurses

serving in the U.S. Army in the current conflicts of Iraq and Afghanistan. A complete list of storytelling participants is attached.

People joining for Storytelling at the Vietnam Women's Memorial will be able to participate in the 1:00 ceremony at The Wall. This program will be preceded by a musical prelude at 12:50. The Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation speaker at the 1:00 ceremony at The Wall will be Barbara Lilly. Ms. Lilly served in the American Red Cross in Vietnam in 1968-1969. She was a Recreation Worker stationed in Phan Rang, Lai Khe, and in Cam Ranh. Years later she helped coordinate volunteers who helped to raise funds for and support the construction of the Vietnam Women's Memorial. Barbara Lilly has worked for the U.S. Marshal's Service and the Department of Veterans Affairs. She currently serves as the Volunteer Coordinator at the Denver VA Medical Center, coordinating the efforts of over 500 volunteers.

For Additional Information:

The Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring women who served during the Vietnam era. For additional information on the Memorial or its projects including educational programs or Sister Search, you are invited to call Marsha Guenzler-Stevens, Chair of the Education Committee, and Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation Board of Directors at 301-314-8505. You may also contact the Foundation's Founder and President, Ms. Diane Carlson Evans at vwmfdc@gmail.com. Additional information is available on the Foundation's web site www.VietnamWomensMemorial.org. The Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation accepts donations, which are tax deductible, to cover the costs of these and other programs.