



Willow House Times



Issue 39

Cuyahoga Heights Historical Committee

December 2015



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Cuyahoga Heights Historical Archives

Kennedy House
4651 E 71st Street
Home of
Historical Committee
&
Boy Scout Troop 28



Village Soldiers - Viet Nam Conflict



Pictured above:

Ronald E. Kimmel; Ralph J. Faragone & Jeffrey N. McCandless
We have no pictures of Wayne Arndt, Lee Billi, James F. Crooks, David Domzalski, Eric R. Waldemarson & Richard Wallace who were also in the service during the Viet Nam Conflict. Billi, Crooks, Domzalski, Faragone, Kimmel & McCandless were in Vietnam. Arndt & Waldemarson were in Germany & South Korea during the war. Wallace graduated from the Naval Academy in 1961 & went to Minnesota University for his master's.

There may be others that we have no information on that served during the Viet Nam Conflict. The committee would appreciate any information & pictures of any village soldiers for our Kennedy House display & the village archives.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial - Washington D.C.

There are 3 parts to the memorial.

The **Memorial Wall** was designed by Maya Lin & placed on 2 acres, in 1982.

It has 58,300 names of KIA's (killed in action) & MIA's (missing in action).

The **Three Servicemen Memorial** designed by Frederick Hart is of an Army soldier on either side of a Marine. It is close to the wall when you enter & was added in 1984.

The **Women's Memorial** was designed by Glenna Goodacre. It shows 3 women soldiers with a wounded soldier. During the Viet Nam conflict 60 civilian women & 8 military women were killed. Only the 8 women soldiers are listed on the wall. Almost all women killed were nurses.

It was added at the south end of the wall, in 1993.



Viet Nam Conflict Timeline

Ancient Vietnam

2nd century BC the Chinese conquered the kingdom of Van Lang now northern Vietnam & rule it over 1,000 years.

In the middle of Vietnam an Indian influenced state called Champa arose in the 2nd century AD.

South Vietnam was Indian influenced from the 1st century to the 6th century AD. The southernmost part of Vietnam was part of a state called Funan.

In 938 AD a leader named Ngo Quyen defeated the Chinese & North Vietnam became an independent state.

In the 13th century the Mongols invaded Vietnam three times. By 1288 the Vietnamese leader Tran Hung Dao routed the Mongols at the Bach Dang River.

In the early 15th century China tried to regain control of North Vietnam. By 1428 the Chinese were driven out and Le Loi became the Emperor Le Thai To. Under his successors the central Vietnamese state of Champa became a vassal state of North Vietnam.

Nguyen Anh took Hanoi in 1802 and made himself Emperor Gia Long & Vietnam became a united kingdom

French Rule

1858 - French colonial rule begins.

1930 - Ho Chi Minh founds the Indochinese Communist Party (ICP).

1941 - ICP organizes a guerrilla force, Viet Minh, in response to invasion by Japan during World War II.

1945 - The Viet Minh seizes power. Ho Chi Minh announces Vietnam's independence.

1946 - French forces attack Viet Minh in Haiphong in November, sparking the war of resistance against the colonial power.

1950 - Democratic Republic of Vietnam is recognized by China and USSR.

USA became involved in the Vietnam War. US sent military advisers to South Vietnam. Financially they supported the French and later the South Vietnamese government.

1954 - Viet Minh forces attack an isolated French military outpost in the town of Dien Bien Phu.

The attempt to take the outpost lasts two months, during which time the French government agrees to peace talks in Geneva. Vietnam is split into North and South at Geneva conference.

1956 - South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem begins campaign against political dissidents.

1957 - Beginning of Communist insurgency

1959 - Weapons and men from North Vietnam begin infiltrating the South.

1960 - American aid to Diem increased.

1962 - Number of US military advisors in South Vietnam rises to 12,000.

1963 - Viet Cong, the communist guerrillas operating in South Vietnam, defeat units of the ARVN, the South Vietnamese Army.

President Diem is overthrown and then killed in a US-backed military coup.

US enters the war

1964 - Gulf of Tonkin incident: the US says North Vietnamese patrol boats fire on two US Navy destroyers.

US Congress approves Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, authorizing military action in region.

1965 - 200,000 American combat troops arrive in South Vietnam.

1966 - US troop numbers in Vietnam rise to 400,000, then to 500,000 the following year.

1968 - Tet Offensive - a combined assault by Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese army on US positions - begins. More than 500 civilians die in the US massacre at My Lai. Thousands are killed by communist forces during their occupation of the city of Hue.

1969 - Ho Chi Minh dies. President Nixon begins to reduce US ground troops in Vietnam as domestic public opposition to the war grows.

1970 - Nixon's national security advisor, Henry Kissinger, and Le Duc Tho, for the Hanoi government, start talks in Paris.

1973 - Ceasefire agreement in Paris, US troop pull-out completed by March.

1975 - North Vietnamese troops invade South Vietnam and take control of the whole country after South Vietnamese President Duong Van Minh surrenders.

Reconstruction

1976 - Socialist Republic of Vietnam proclaimed. Saigon is re-named Ho Chi Minh City. Hundreds of thousands flee abroad, including many "boat people".

1979 - Vietnam invades Cambodia and ousts the Khmer Rouge regime of Pol Pot. In response, Chinese troops cross Vietnam's northern border. They are pushed back by Vietnamese forces. The number of "boat people" trying to leave Vietnam causes international concern.

1986 - Nguyen Van Linh becomes party leader. He introduces a more liberal economic policy.

1989 - Vietnamese troops withdraw from Cambodia.

1992 - New constitution adopted allowing certain economic freedoms. The Communist Party remains the leading force in Vietnamese society.

Reconciliation

1994 - US lifts its 30-year trade embargo.

1995 - Vietnam and US restore full diplomatic relations. Vietnam becomes full member of Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

1997 - Le Kha Phieu becomes party leader. Tran Duc Luong chosen as president, Phan Van Khai becomes prime minister.

1998 - A senior party member, Pham The Duyet, faces charges of corruption. Economic growth slumps in the wake of the Asian financial crisis.

1999 - A former high-ranking party member, Tran Do, is expelled after calling for more democracy and freedom of expression.

2000 - US President Bill Clinton pays a three-day official visit. The US pledges more help to clear landmines left over from the Vietnam war. The Vietnamese government estimates nearly 40,000 people have been killed by unexploded munitions.

2001 - The Communist Party chooses Nong Duc Manh as its new leader. US, Vietnam implement a trade agreement which normalizes the trade status between them.

2002 - Russia hands back the Cam Ranh Bay naval base, once the largest Soviet base outside the Warsaw Pact. President Tran Duc Luong reappointed for second term by National Assembly, which also reappoints Prime Minister Phan Van Khai for second five-year term.

2004 - First US commercial flight since the end of the Vietnam War touches down in Ho Chi Minh City.

2005 - Prime Minister Phan Van Khai makes the first visit to the US by a Vietnamese leader since the end of the Vietnam War.

2006 - Senior officials are investigated over the alleged embezzlement of millions of dollars of state money in the transport ministry.

2006 - As part of an anticipated political shake-up, the prime minister, president and National Assembly chairman are replaced by younger leaders.

WTO membership

2007 - After 12 years of talks, Vietnam becomes the 150th member of the World Trade Organization.

2007 -February - US agrees for the first time to help fund a study into the removal of Agent Orange, the highly toxic defoliant used by US forces, from a former US base in Da Nang. Herbicide used by US forces to clear vegetation, depriving enemy of cover. Name derives from orange markings on the drums containing the chemical. Children born in areas sprayed have disproportionate rate of mental and physical problems

2007 -June - President Nguyen Minh Triet makes first visit to the US by a Vietnamese head of state since the Vietnam War ended in 1975.



Cuyahoga Heights Historical Committee

Barb Bartczak

Mark Chase

Laura Hine

Irma Schab

Sandy Waldemarson

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2016 Meetings

10 AM - Noon

April 2nd

May 7th

May 30th Memorial Day

Open House 9 AM - 1PM

August 6th

October 1st

at

Kennedy House

4561 E. 71st Street

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Willow Times News

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Website

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Do You Know?

WOUNDED G.I. VISITS SICK MOTHER AT HOSPITAL 1966 or 1967

For the past two months, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Chimelewski of 7130 Dressler Ct. kept a vigil at the bedside of their son, SP/4C Ronald Kimmel, 21, in the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington DC. He was paralyzed from wounds he received in battle in Viet Nam. They watched him make gradual but steady progress to recovery. This week he got emergency leave to visit his mother, Florence, at St. Alexis Hospital after she was suddenly stricken ill. When Ronald received word of his mother's illness he said, "I told my doctor I was going home if I had to walk." Being given a 3-day pass, his sister, Mrs. Kay Gorski flew to Washington and escorted Ron back with the aid of a cane and wheelchair. He is making steady and almost miraculous recovery from his paralysis and hopes to be transferred soon to the Cleveland VA Hospital. While talking to his friends he was overwhelmed with being back home. "You can't imagine what a feeling it is to be back home. After my experience in Viet Nam, I thought I would never see this place again. Sure is a great feeling," added Ron. Kimmel was hit during the Attleboro Operation in Tay Nihn Province. The bullet broke his jaw, traveled through mouth, neck, lung and is still lodged in his spine. Congressman Charles A. Vanik heard of Ron's emergency visit to his mother's bedside, he had the hospital staff extend his leave through Sunday.

Source: newspaper article from Lenore Nicolai-Schuschu's scrapbook

December's Sources: Ralph Faragone; Ron Kimmel; Bella McCandless; Edna Wencke; Ross Patterson; history.com; www.localhistories.org/viethist.html; Ancestry.com; Wikipedia.org; www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-16568035; www.thinglink.com; www.britannica.com/event/vietnam-war; www.archives.gov; thewall-usa.com;

Committee News

This is the last of our articles on village soldiers. We hope you have a better understanding of our soldiers, plus the wars & conflicts we covered this year.

2016 we will tell about some of our century homes.

The Historical Committee's next meeting will be April 2nd 2016 from 10 AM till 12 noon. All meeting dates for 2016 are listed to the left. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings, or look at the displays at the Kennedy House. You can also schedule a time to visit by contacting any committee member or the village hall.

Cuyahoga Heights Memories Page, the Historical Committee's Facebook page now has 340 members. It is a closed group page, meaning you have to go to the page & ask to join. Don't forget our web page. They are both listed to the left. The *Willow House Times* is posted the 1st week of the month on our Facebook & web site.



"MERRY CHRISTMAS

&

HAPPY

NEW YEAR"