



Join Those Who Were There

The 25th Anniversary Symposium on the End of America's Longest War

Rendezvous with **WAR:**

**Veterans, Correspondents, Historians,
and Film Makers Reflect on the Vietnam
War 25 Years After**

April 6-8, 2000 • The College of William and Mary

Sponsored by Vietnam Veterans of America and the College of William and Mary

Welcome . . .



From George Duggins Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America is honored to be the co-sponsor, with the College of William and Mary, of "Rendezvous with War," a conference commemorating the 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. This is indeed an exciting and unique opportunity to learn about this conflict from experts who lived it, wrote about it, and reported on it.

This symposium provides a unique opportunity to further that goal. The list of participants is filled with noteworthy Americans who served in the Vietnam War, several of whom, I am proud to say, are members of our organization.

On behalf of Vietnam Veterans of America, I welcome all those attending this symposium. I am sure all of us will find the experience rewarding and enlightening.

George C. Duggins
National President
Vietnam Veterans of America



From Timothy Sullivan The College of William and Mary

The College of William and Mary is proud to co-host "Rendezvous with War," a conference commemorating the 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. This is indeed an exciting and unique opportunity to learn about this conflict from experts who lived it, wrote about it, and reported on it.

In the early 1970s, I served as a 1st lieutenant in the United States Army Signal Corps in Vietnam. Like others who had tours of duty there, I still have vivid, personal memories of the people, the country, and the conflict. For those of us who experienced Vietnam, as well as those who know about it only as a part of our country's history, this conference will offer a chance to reflect on the impact that the war has had on the nation and our national conscience.

I welcome all of you to "Rendezvous with War," and urge you to take full advantage of the exciting and informative sessions, each of which focuses on different aspects of the war. I hope that you will find the conference to be a rewarding and stimulating experience.

Timothy J. Sullivan
President
The College of William and Mary

Symposium Schedule . . .

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

4:00-5:30 p.m.

*No Light at the End of the Tunnel:
America Goes to War in Vietnam*
Panel: William Gibbons, Stanley Karnow,
Harold Moore, Ronald Spector
Moderator: Edward Crapol
Chesapeake Room, University Center

7:30-9:00 p.m.

*The Fall of Saigon & Phnom Penh:
The End of Folly*
Panel: Peter Arnett, Herbert Fix, Joseph
Galloway, Sydney Schanberg, Russ
Thurman
Moderator: Michael Finn
Chesapeake Room, University Center

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

9:00-10:30 a.m.

*Desperate Measures: Search & Destroy,
Rolling Thunder, Agent Orange, Phoenix,
and Taking Night Away from Charlie*
Panel: Herbert Fix, Zalin Grant, Harold
Moore, Ronald Spector
Moderator: James Golden
Commonwealth Auditorium, University
Center

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

*The Warrior's Story:
Love the Soldier, Hate the War*
Panel: Tom Corey, Frederick Downs,
Patrick Duncan, Marsha Four, Russ
Thurman
Moderator: James Griffin
Commonwealth Auditorium, University
Center

FRIDAY, APRIL 7 (cont'd)

2:00-3:30 p.m.

*Reporters on the Frontlines:
Careers Forged in Danger*
Panel: Peter Arnett, Joseph Galloway, Zalin
Grant, Wallace Terry
Moderator: Marc Leepson
Commonwealth Auditorium, University Center

3:45-5:15 p.m.

*Dissent, Division, and Demonstration:
The War in Washington*
Panel: Joseph R. Barnes, William Gibbons,
Stanley Karnow, Sydney Schanberg
Moderator: Everett Alvarez, Jr.
Commonwealth Auditorium, University Center

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Return with Honor (POW Film)
Produced by Tom Hanks
Directed by Freida Lee Mock & Terry Sanders
Panel: Everett Alvarez, Jr., Zalin Grant
Moderator: Wallace Terry
Chesapeake Room C, University Center

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

9:00-10:45 a.m.

*Selling the War Story: Hollywood Hits
and Bestseller Lists*
Panel: Philip Caputo, Patrick Duncan, Wallace
Terry, Russ Thurman
Moderator: Marc Leepson
Commonwealth Auditorium, University Center

11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

*Return to Indochina: Recovering from
The War 25 Years After*
Panel: Philip Caputo, Frederick Downs,
Sydney Schanberg, Rick Wideman
Moderator: Tom Corey
Commonwealth Auditorium, University Center

— Break for lunch —

Participants . . .

Everett Alvarez, Jr. is a former U.S. Navy pilot whose A-4 fighter-bomber was shot down in a retaliatory air raid against North Vietnam on August 5, 1964. He became the first U.S. prisoner of war and was the longest held American POW in North Vietnam. His two well-received books on that experience are: *Chained Eagle* (1989), written with Anthony S. Pitch, and *Code of Conduct* (1991) with Samuel Schreiner, Jr.


Peter Arnett, the Cable News Network correspondent and author, was the longest serving reporter in South Vietnam, having covered the war for the Associated Press from 1962-1975. A native of New Zealand, his awards include the Pulitzer Prize and the George Polk Award. He was regarded by many of his peers as one of the best Vietnam War correspondents. His Vietnam War experiences are a subject of Arnett's 1994 memoir, *Live From the Battlefield*.

Joseph R. Barnes served as a combat medic attached to the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam in 1968-69. Soon after he came home from the war, he became active in the veterans movement. He served on the national steering committee of Vietnam Veterans Against the War from 1972-75, and was a founding member of a local Kansas City Vietnam veterans rap group in 1971. Today he is a member of the national Board of Directors of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) and serves as President of VVA's Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund, a non-profit foundation that provides grants for projects that serve Vietnam veterans and their families.

Philip Caputo is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, novelist and author. His critically acclaimed and best-selling 1977 memoir, *A Rumor of War*, tells the story of his 1965-66 tour of duty as a U.S. Marine Corps lieutenant in Vietnam, and includes reporting on the last days of the South Vietnamese regime. His other works include the Vietnam War-influenced 1987 novel *Indian Country* and "In the Forest of the Laughing Elephant," a novella set in Vietnam that is part of his 1997 book, *Exiles*.

Tom Corey, the national vice president of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), has been a veterans' advocate for more than two decades. He was severely wounded in Vietnam while serving with the First Cavalry Division. He has spoken widely on many aspects of the Vietnam War and veterans issues. He has been back to Vietnam nine times with VVA's Veterans Initiative Task Force, the program that turns documents, photos, and other war-related items and information gathered from American Vietnam veterans over to their Vietnamese counterparts in an effort to locate the MIAs on both sides of the conflict.

Edward P. Crapol is William E. Pullen Professor of American History at the College of William and Mary. He teaches the history of American foreign relations, including courses on America and Vietnam and on the Cold War era. He has been an exchange professor at Exeter University in England, and has lectured in Canada, Ireland, Vietnam and Germany and has served as chair of the William and Mary History Department and director of the Graduate Program in History.



Frederick Downs, Jr. was severely wounded in January 1968 while serving as a U.S. Army Fourth Infantry Division platoon leader in Vietnam. He has written two widely acclaimed books about that experience: *The Killing Zone: My Life in the Vietnam War* (1978) and *Aftermath: A Soldier's Return From Vietnam* (1984). A long-time Department of Veterans Affairs official, he also is author of *No Longer Enemies, Nor Yet Friends: An American Soldier Returns to Vietnam* (1991).

Patrick Sheane Duncan is a screenwriter and director who served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam in 1968-69. He wrote and directed *84 Charlie MoPie*, a Vietnam War combat film widely regarded as the most realistic of its genre. He also wrote and directed several episodes of the award-winning Home Box Office "Vietnam War Stories" series. His other screenplays include *Mr. Holland's Opus* and *Courage Under Fire*, the first Hollywood film that dealt with the Persian Gulf War.

John Michael Finn served with the Fourth Infantry Division in the Central Highlands of Vietnam in 1969-70. After the war he received a Ph.D. in physics and today is a Professor of Physics at the College of William and Mary. He has recently completed *Flashback*, a memoir of his Vietnam experiences, which included stints as an infantry rifleman, a fire direction controller for a mortar platoon, and a public information specialist.

Herbert Fix retired as a colonel from the U.S. Marine Corps in 1982 after twenty-five years of service. He served three tours in Vietnam: in 1967-68 as the duty officer for a Marine air control squadron based at Monkey Mountain near Danang; in 1973 as a helicopter commander during the minesweeping operation of Haiphong Harbor; and in 1975 when he commanded American helicopter forces during both the fall of Saigon and the fall of Phnom Penh.

Marsha Four, who serves on the national Board of Directors of Vietnam Veterans of America, also chairs the organization's national Women's Veterans Committee. She is a registered nurse and a long-time veterans' advocate who served in Vietnam with the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in 1969-70.

Joseph L. Galloway, the veteran journalist and author, served a sixteen-month tour as a war correspondent in Vietnam for United Press International beginning in March 1965. He returned to Vietnam in 1971, 1973 and in 1975 when he covered the fall of Cambodia and South Vietnam. A senior writer at *U.S. News & World Report*, he is the co-author, with Gen. Harold Moore, of the highly praised, best-selling 1993 book, *We Were Soldiers Once . . . and Young*, which tells the story of the pivotal 1965 Battle of the Ia Drang Valley.

William Conrad Gibbons, a World War II veteran, is the author of the acclaimed five-volume *The U.S. Government and the Vietnam War* which was commissioned by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He is the former chair of the Political Science Department at Texas A&M University and a visiting professor at Wellesley College and George Mason University. He served for many years on the professional staff of the Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress.

James R. Golden, the Director of Economic Development and Corporate Relations at the College of William and Mary, graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and went on to a long and distinguished military career. He retired as a U.S. Army brigadier general. He served as an air observer in Vietnam, and later joined the tenured faculty at West Point. He was professor and head of the Department of Social Sciences there from 1989-1996.

Zalin Grant, who served as a U.S. Army officer in Vietnam, returned to that country as a war correspondent and journalist for *Time* and the *New Republic*. He is the author of several acclaimed nonfiction accounts of the Vietnam War, including *Survivors* (1975), which deals with American prisoners of war; *Over the Beach* (1986), an account of the air war over North Vietnam; and *Facing the Phoenix* (1991), which examines the controversial counterinsurgency effort, the Phoenix Program.

James E. Griffin is Associate Professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at the College of William and Mary where he has taught Spanish language and Hispanic literatures since 1975. Before beginning his graduate studies, he served two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in coastal Ecuador and two years as an enlisted Marine, including one tour in Vietnam in I Corps. While in Vietnam he worked as a company clerk with Headquarters and Service Company, First Bn., 26th Marines, the regiment primarily responsible for the defense of Khe Sanh Combat Base and surrounding hills during the 1968 Tet offensive. Griffin writes short stories in Spanish and English, many of which are based on his experiences in Vietnam. His writings have appeared in *Red Clay*, a service journal, and in the literary journals *Readers' Break* and *Potpourri*.

Stanley Karnow, the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author, has reported from Western and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Asia for *Time*, *Life*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *The London Observer*, *The Washington Post*, and NBC News. His best-selling 1983 book, *Vietnam: A History*, has sold 1.5 million copies and was the basis for the thirteen-part Public Broadcasting Services documentary, *Vietnam: A Television History* (1983).

Marc Leepson, the long-time arts editor and columnist for Vietnam Veterans of America's newspaper, *The VVA Veteran*, served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam in 1967-68. He has written widely on many aspects of the war for many magazines and newspapers. His latest book is *The Webster's New World Dictionary of the Vietnam War*.

Harold G. Moore, a West Point graduate, commanded two infantry companies in the Korean War and was a First Cavalry Division battalion and brigade commander in Vietnam. He retired as a lieutenant general from the U.S. Army in 1977 after thirty-two years of service. His 1992 account of his role in the pivotal 1965 Battle of the Ia Drang Valley, *We Were Soldiers Once . . . and Young*, written with Joseph Galloway, is considered a classic account of Vietnam War combat.

Sydney Schanberg covered the Vietnam War in Cambodia from 1970-1975 for *The New York Times*. He won the 1976 Pulitzer Prize for international reporting for his Cambodia coverage. The film, *The Killing Fields*, was based on his Cambodia reporting. His 1985 book, *The Death and Life of Dith Pran*, is his account of the events which were later portrayed in the film.

Ronald Spector is a professor of History and International Affairs at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where he teaches a course on the history of the Vietnam War. He is a former Director of Naval History for the U.S. Navy. A U.S. Marine Vietnam veteran, his books include *The U.S. Army in Vietnam: The Early Years* (1983), *After Tet: The Bloodiest Year in Vietnam* (1993), and the classic work on the Pacific War, *Eagle Against the Sun* (1984).

Wallace Terry, the conference's coordinator, is the author of *Bloods: An Oral History of the Vietnam War by Black Veterans* (1984), which is widely regarded as the definitive book about the black experience in the Vietnam War. Terry served as a Vietnam War correspondent for *Time* magazine and has lectured widely on the war. From 1989-1994 Terry served on the Board of Visitors at the College of William and Mary.

Russ Thurman served two tours in Vietnam from 1966-1967 and then returned in 1975 for the evacuations of Cambodia and South Vietnam. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1985 with the rank of captain, and launched a career as a technical adviser on several major Hollywood films, including *Born on the Fourth of July* and *84 Charlie Mo'Pic*. He was co-writer of the television series *Medal of Honor* with Patrick Duncan.

Rick Weidman, the director of Vietnam Veterans of America's Government Relations Department, served as a medic with the U.S. Army's Americal Division in Vietnam in 1969. A long-time veterans' advocate, he previously served as VVA's Membership Services Director and as director of Veterans Employment and Training for the New York State Department of Labor. He also has been a consultant on legislative affairs for the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, and on the Department of Veterans Affairs' Readjustment Advisory Committee, the Secretary of Labor's Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment & Training, and on advisory committees on veterans' entrepreneurship at the Small Business Administration.

The College of William and Mary and Vietnam Veterans of America extend sincere thanks to these distinguished panelists for sharing their personal insights and unique perspectives during this 25th Anniversary Symposium.

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