

THE AMBASSADOR



EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

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Dear Friends,

Recently Marcia Selva, a member of the Board of Director for the Vietnam Humanitarian Organization of America and President of Global Spectrum, an agency specializing in travel in Asia and Vietnam, came to me with a story about an American Veteran and his meeting with a Vietnamese Veteran.

On December 15, 1999, a twice wounded ex-guerilla and now President of Pho Thuan People's Committee, Duc Pho, Quang Ngai Province sat down with Francis (Chuck) Theusch, U.S. Army Vietnam and Tran Dinh Song, guide-interpreter on the Global Spectrum staff in Duc Pho.

Former enemies, they naturally talked of the war. But the discussion turned from the past to the future soon enough. Mr. Dai and Mr. Theusch agreed that "We can't change the past but we can change the future." They have set about to do so. Tran Dinh Song noted the need for libraries and books throughout the country, and especially in the Duc Pho area.

The idea was born. One time adversaries have joined together to build a different kind of memorial of the war - a living, breathing monument to peace, reconciliation and cooperation between our peoples. A library books. A place to learn. The People's Committee will provide the labor, the generosity of others will provide the funding for materials, the books and furnishings necessary for a fully functioning library.

Mr. Le Viet Hung, able Headmaster of the Duc Pho Education and Training Chamber, Pho Tuan Secondary School, has provided a list of things he needs in his endless efforts to provide a sound education regardless of the poverty. The project is working to fill the request.

American generosity is well known. Your support of this effort, no matter its size or form, whether a contribution of books, money, time, or expertise, is still another testimony to the heart of what we in Vietnam call Americans, "Nuoc My".. meaning "Beautiful People".

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Le Van Bang", with a long horizontal line underneath.

Le Van Bang