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PENDING REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH E.O. 13233

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: Blackwell, Morton C.: Files

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File Folder: Veterans Administration:[Organizations - Miscellaneous]

Archivist: kdb

FOIA ID: F00-084/2, Fish

Date: 3/15/07

gtm 5/8/08

DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
A. memo	Blackwell to Red Cavaney re request from PVA for Presidential event, 1p	1/13/83	<i>open dlb 5/21/08</i>

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 13, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR RED CAVANEY

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL 
SUBJECT: Request from PVA for Presidential Event

I recommend that the President not accept this invitation. PVA is not one of the major organizations nor has it ever expressed support for any of the Administration initiatives which have been supported by most of the major veterans groups. It is not properly described as a radical group, but the staff appears to be all liberals who do not support the President.

PENTHOUSE MAGAZINE PRESENTS

VIETNAM WAR STORIES

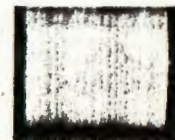
WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?
WILL WE MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES AGAIN?



A LECTURE/FILM PRESENTATION

PRODUCED BY GEORGE GREENFIELD ASSOCIATES, INC.

file
V V A





VIETNAM WAR STORIES takes you down into the trenches where the war was really fought. You will share the experiences of a Vietnam veteran and confront the moral and political questions the Vietnam War has forced us to ask.

THE FILM HEROES is a compelling 60-minute documentary film on the Vietnam War, Vietnam today and the U.S. military involvement abroad, with comparative film clips of fighting in El Salvador and Vietnam. **HEROES** dispels the John Wayne myth of a bloodless, glorious war by examining the personal stories of five Vietnam War veterans, including Robert Muller. It shares the pain and suffering of war and calls attention to what is all too often ignored—life after war—What happens to a soldier when the shooting stops? The film was produced by David Munro/John Pilger.

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?

The fact that our constitution requires Congress to declare war did not prevent 57,000 U.S. soldiers from dying in Vietnam even though Congress had not declared war.

WILL THERE BE ANOTHER VIETNAM? ANOTHER WAR? WHY?

Oil?

El Salvador?

The Middle East?

WHO IS GOING TO FIGHT THAT WAR?

Will the draft come back?

Will you serve?

WHAT'S TO PREVENT THE PRESIDENT FROM CATAPULTING US INTO WAR?

U.S. Advisors have fought battles in El Salvador

Troops were sent into Iran for the hostages

1,000 U.S. soldiers are now committed to the Sinai

WE ARE IN THE LARGEST PEACETIME MILITARY BUILDUP IN HISTORY

S.A.L.T. II HAS FAILED

THE VOLUNTEER ARMY IS COLLAPSING

PROJECTED MILITARY MANPOWER NEEDS REQUIRE A DRAFT WITHIN TWO YEARS

"THOSE WHO FAIL TO LEARN THE LESSONS OF HISTORY ARE CONDEMNED TO REPEAT IT."—George Santayana

THE SPEAKERS



ROBERTO O. MULLER is the executive director of the Vietnam Veterans of America. He was a 23-year-old Marine Corps Lieutenant in Vietnam, leading an assault against a Viet Cong stronghold, when a bullet struck him in the chest and severed his spine. The wounds left him permanently paralyzed from the chest down, confined to a wheel chair for the rest of his life.

While his legs had limits placed on them, he soon learned that

his mind and voice did not. He has since been referred to by many, including Congressman Tom Daschle of S. Dakota as "the single most eloquent and dedicated person to speak for Vietnam veterans in the entire country."

Once out of the hospital, Muller attended law school and continued to speak out for improved conditions for Vietnam Veterans. In 1977, he founded the Vietnam Veterans of America, the first and only national membership organization of veterans of the Vietnam War. Following Muller's meeting with President Reagan in August 1981, V.V.A. joined the ranks of the V.F.W. & the American Legion when the Veterans Administration gave the organization official status as a veterans service organization.

Robert O. Muller is well-known to many Americans as a result of his appearances on numerous television talk shows including the Today Show, Good Morning America, David Susskind, Phil Donahue, Dick Cavett and the MacNeil/Lehrer Report. In 1971 he was chosen by Time magazine as one of the fifty most promising future national leaders; he has continued since then to fulfill that promise.



LYNDA VAN DEVANTER, national women's director of the Vietnam Veterans of America, is the leading advocate for women veterans in the United States. In 1969, at the age of 22, she was a surgical nurse in a primitive army operating room in the central highlands of South Vietnam, patching together the bits and pieces of people arriving in an unrelenting procession from battlefields nearby.

Her own attitude about the war

had been radically changed by seeing its waste at close range. Upon returning to America, she found herself stigmatized by the fury of a country racked by divided feelings about the Vietnam experience and the derogatory sentiment expressed by people who learned that she, a woman, had served in the war.

All of these things came together with a deep desire to forget that year in war, and Ms. Van Devanter buried the experience until depressions, nightmares and flashbacks to memories became more and more frequent. Through the completion of specialized counseling programs, Ms. Van Devanter overcame the traumas brought about by the war and became the first woman vet to speak out about the impact of war on women.

Lynda Van Devanter has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, in *Time* magazine, *Parade* magazine, *US* magazine, and articles written by her have appeared in *The L.A. Times*, *The Chicago Tribune* and many other publications. She has been on numerous television shows, including: the Today Show, HOUR Magazine and CNN's Sandy Freeman Report.



"Bob Muller understands the key military issues facing
the country today. He should be listened to."

Daniel Patrick Moynihan

Of Lynda Van Devanter's writings on the war, the
Los Angeles Times said, "It is so
extraordinary that one wishes it to be written in skywriting
over all the cities and towns of the earth."

"Vietnam turned this whole country into a dark street.
Like at night when you just want to get home
and out of the corner of your eye you see somebody
gettin' hurt and you keep walking on because
it don't have nothing to do with you. Unless we're able
to walk down those dark alleys and look into
the eyes of the men and women that are down there and
the things that happened, we're never gonna be
able to get home. It happened once and it could happen
again. So what I'm asking everyone to do is listen to
a friend of mine, a Vietnam veteran named Bob Muller."

-Bruce Springsteen

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October 14, 1982

Dear Mr. Morgan:

On behalf of President Reagan, I want to thank you for your letter. Please accept my apology for the delay in responding.

The President appreciates receiving your views on the need to cut Federal spending. He is working very hard to eliminate waste and abuse in every area of government, including the Pentagon. For example, the Private Sector Survey on Cost Control, which he appointed earlier this year, is making practical recommendations on ways to cut costs in the defense budget without endangering the military buildup which he thinks is essential.

The President also believes that it is possible to pursue an arms control policy that will enhance, rather than weaken, American security. I am enclosing a booklet containing several recent speeches he has delivered on this issue.

It was good of you to let the President know that you support the basic direction of his policies. He will try to justify your confidence.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

Mr. Ryall S. Morgan
Office of the Past President General
Sons of the American Revolution
123 East Jones Street
Savannah, GA 31401

Enclosure: UN/European speeches

cc: Morton Blackwell

AVH:RDC:DE:jd--