

**IN MEMORY OF
NGUYEN VAN LUY
3/10/1912 - 8/7/2003**

We are very sad to announce that Nguyen Van Luy, our close and trusted comrade and friend, passed away at Saint Paul Hospital in Hanoi, Vietnam, on August 7, 2003. The funeral and cremation occurred on August 12th. He lived a full life of 91 years. He suffered a stroke earlier this year and was hospitalized for a brief period in the Napa Valley area, north of San Francisco. He returned to Vietnam early this summer to live his last days in Vietnam as he always wished.

Nguyen Van Luy (Van Luy was his American nickname) was a hard-working Vietnamese American who earned his living as a cook and small restaurant owner. Nguyen is well-known to many people in the anti-war movement nationally and in the San Francisco Bay Area, as someone who had a long history of support for the struggle for the independence of Vietnam.

Nguyen Van Luy was a generous man, a fighter with an intense love for life. He was a dedicated and trusted friend with a keen sense of justice. He was passionate, and down to earth, and thus, was skilled in expounding his political position on the Vietnam war in its essential form, using Vietnamese proverbs. He spoke Vietnamese exceptionally well for a person who left the country uneducated and illiterate. One of the most memorable ancient Vietnamese proverbs he cited was "one is confused if one does not know where home is." He loved to sing the French song "*Vive la vie! Vive la joie et l'amour!*" while cooking.

Nguyen Van Luy was born to a very poor family on March 10, 1912 in Hai Phong, Vietnam. In 1929, at 17, he left Vietnam to become a "coolie" on a French merchant ship. He landed in France in 1930 where he learned to read and write Vietnamese and French with the Association for Mutual Assistance in Learning (Hoi Tuong Te Hoc Thuat). When the French Popular Front lost power, the patriotic Vietnamese were brutally suppressed, and Nguyen had to escape from France and become a sailor.

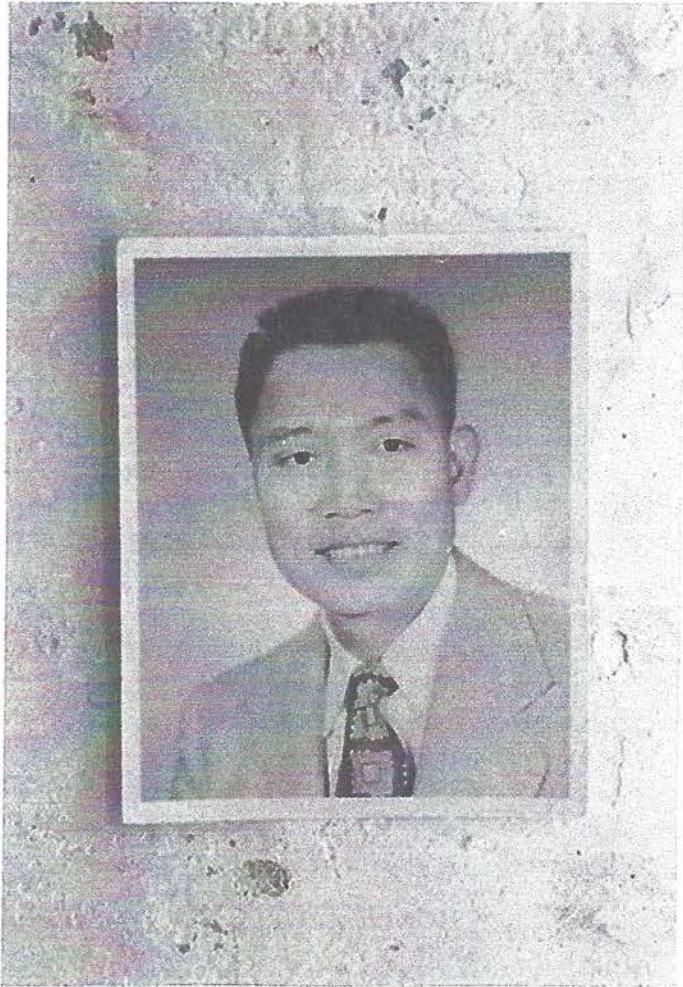
On October 22, 1940, Nguyen Van Luy landed in New York City and was later arrested and jailed in Ellis Island because the police mistook him for Japanese. Learning that he was Vietnamese and could write and speak French, the U.S. War Department hired him as a translator to correspond with the OSS team operating in conjunction with Ho Chi Minh's Viet Minh Front against the Japanese fascists in Vietnam. After Viet Nam declared independence on September 2, 1945, the U.S. government supported the French effort to re-colonize Vietnam. Nguyen immediately resigned and returned to his work as a cook on American ships. Because of his political views, he was denied permanent residency status, which had been promised by the U.S. War Department. With the support of the American Committee to Protect the Foreign Born and the American Civil Liberties Union, he was finally granted a green card in 1954, and six years later, in 1960, became a U.S. citizen. He joined the Hotel and Restaurant Union, Local 2, in San Francisco.

Nguyen Van Luy became the first Vietnamese in the U.S. to oppose the war in Vietnam in the early 1960's and a leader among the progressive Vietnamese in the U.S. Every year, until 1975, on December 20th, he organized a fundraising dinner to support the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam. Nguyen was elected a member of the Executive Committee of the Union of Vietnamese in the U.S., which was founded earlier on July 2, 1972, after the assassination of Nguyen Thai Binh, a student at the University of Washington, by a plain-clothes American policeman in Saigon. In 1973, he became its President. In 1976, the Union of Vietnamese in the U.S. renamed itself the Association of Patriotic Vietnamese in the U.S., with Nguyen as the President. It was one of his happiest moments when he led the first Vietnamese American delegation to Vietnam for its reunification celebration in 1976. In 1983, it was renamed the Association of Vietnamese in the U.S. and Nguyen was elected its Honorary President.

On Memorial Day, May 28, 1984, at 9:20 PM, Nguyen Van Luy and his wife, Mrs Pham Thi Luu, were shot in front of their house in San Francisco. Mrs Pham was killed, and Nguyen was critically wounded. Responsibility for the assassination was claimed by the Vietnamese Organization to Exterminate Communists and Restore the Nation which also claimed responsibility for killing other Vietnam friendship activists. No one was ever arrested or prosecuted for these murders.

In 1990, Nguyen Van Luy remarried and visited Vietnam often. Nguyen took part in political work in support of normalization of relations between Vietnam and the U.S. until its realization in 1995. He continued his support of Vietnam by contributing monetarily to the Anti-Poverty Campaign organized by the Vietnam Fatherland Front until his last day. Nguyen was elected a member of the 5th Term Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front. His activities were carried by Vietnamese newspapers regularly.

We remember Nguyen Van Luy as a friend who had a great sense of humor in the face of adversity, and as a trusted comrade who dedicated his life to the struggle for justice and peace, and who was ready to pay for his political views with his life-and he indeed sacrificed dearly for it. We are happy and thankful that he lived to be 91 and rests in Vietnam where he always wanted to be!



Nguyen Van Luy
Patriot and dedicated fighter for humanity in both
his native country Vietnam and his adopted
country the U.S.
March 10 1912 to August 7 2003

**SPEECH BY: Mr. Nguyen Van Luy, Vietnamese-American, at, the Oct. 21,
1967 Demonstration in Wash. D. C.: "Confront the Warmakers"***

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am very grateful to the organizers of this demonstration for giving me this privilege of coming here today to express my thoughts, and to bring you some true facts about the war of genocide which is still raging in my homeland.

My dear American friends, as you all know, the recent flowery speeches of President Johnson and his underlings are nothing new, and have resulted in the war of aggression in Vietnam becoming fiercer than ever. More Vietnamese villages have been destroyed; more women, children and other innocent civilians have been killed; more tons of bombs have fallen on both the North and the South of Vietnam, meanwhile our President and his flunkies are mouthing words of peace.

Nevertheless, both the National Liberation Front in the South, and the defenders in the North stand firmer and more determined than ever to fight this war to a finish, to drive out all foreign troops, and to decide for themselves the future of Vietnam, their fatherland. President Johnson has boasted, according to James Reston in the San Francisco Chronicle, that: "I am not going to be the first President of the United States to lose a war," But every loyal Vietnamese believes, and as a Vietnamese-American, I believe, that he will, in the not too distant future, be forced to eat those words; and that the government he heads (if he does head it much longer) will be forced to recognize Vietnam as a free, independent and sovereign nation,

In the North, the bombs continue to fall, but the people stand, upright, and in spite of 32 months of ceaseless bombardment, life goes on; Education has been expanded; in scattered factories, output has increased; and food production is greater than ever before.

In the South, the National Liberation Front met in a special congress during August of this year and adopted a political program to step up the war of liberation, and to prepare to establish a provisional government based on an extremely liberal statement of policy to give every Vietnamese a fair share in the freedom and prosperity that will be theirs, when they have won their independence, Representatives of the Front are putting these policies into practice as best they can

(cont. on page #2)

(page #2)

under war conditions throughout the liberated areas, which is about 80 percent of South Vietnam and includes about two-thirds of the people.

Meanwhile the struggle goes on; while the caterpillars of the U, S, tanks crush fields and villages in the South of Vietnam, and while Washington's militarist flunkys in Saigon, (who style themselves disciples of Hitler), fight over the farcical "election" to a "presidency" of a puppet government, large numbers of patriotic workers and intellectuals in the towns and cities are thrown into jails and concentration camps, simply because they want Independence, Freedom and Peace.

The administration of the United States and the handful of traitors in Saigon have, for thirteen years, violated the fundamental principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam, and brutally trampled on the sacred aspirations of all the people of Vietnam, as well as the ideals of justice and humanity of the whole of progressive mankind, But for all that, and in spite of the agonizing pain of napalm, the destruction of villages and of vast stretches of their fields and forests, the "pacification" which is only a fancy name for subjugation -- in spite of all the terrible suffering caused by this genocidal war which, in the eyes of the Vietnamese people as a whole, makes "United States" equal to aggression, violence, and murder; these same people of Vietnam have no hatred for the people of the United States.

The Vietnamese fighters for democracy and freedom and for national salvation welcome the rising protests of the peace forces in this country and look upon demonstrations such as we have here today as their second line of defense. I am very happy to be here to participate with you in your resolute and widespread struggle to oppose and to bring to a speedy end our government's illegal, immoral and unjust war in Vietnam. Honest Americans from all walks of life who march in our nation's capitol today, are concerned about the good name and the basic interests of the United States of America, our children's future, and the right of all peoples to self-determination, and world peace.

THEREFORE, WE HERE ASSEMBLED, DEMAND:

- ◆ STOP THE U.S. WAR OF AGGRESSION IN VIETNAM!
- ◆ STOP PERMANENTLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY U.S. BOMBING AND ALL OTHER ACTS OF WAR AGAINST THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE!
- ◆ WITHDRAW ALL U.S. TROOPS FROM SOUTH VIETNAM
- ◆ RESPECT THE FUNDAMENTAL NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE!
- ◆ RECOGNIZE THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT, THE ONLY GENUINE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE

This is the only way to end this unjust war! Thank you very much.

- Nguyen Van Luy had worked for the OSS during world war II and became an American citizen.
- This speech was perhaps the first speech by a Vietnamese American in the anti-war movement. Even though other speakers were allowed to go on for much longer, there were long periods of music and waiting and the leadership of the demonstration had a copy of this speech, they cut him off at the end of the first page. It appeared they were afraid he would say something too "anti-American." Those who knew Nguyen Van Luy, who was a leader of the Union of Vietnamese in the U.S. know that he would have completed the speech as written.
- The Union was later changed to the Association of Patriotic Vietnamese in the U.S. with Van Luy as President. In spite of attacks from remnants of the old regime who shot him and murdered his wife, Van Luy was prominent in normalization or relations with Viet Nam and later elected a member of the 5th Term Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front. Deceased 8/7/2003, he is remembered by his friends as one of the finest people ever dedicated to the struggle for justice and peace.

Nguyen Van Luy kindergarten set up in Hai Tho, Quang Tri Province, Viet Nam, grand opening July 22, 2004.
Contact is Chim Nguyen, 6634 Barnsdale Ct., San Jose, CA 95120 408-268-0186 thanhchim@yahoo.com





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