Dear Friends,

What a year this has been! Together, we have come so far. This week marks the first anniversary of President Obama's speech in Vientiane, when he made history as the first U.S. president to visit Laos and openly address the U.S. Vietnam War-era bombings of Laos.

The President pledged $90 million over the following three years, or $30 million per year, to the unexploded ordnance (UXO) sector in Laos. It was the first-ever multi-year commitment by the U.S. government to clear bombs and support victims in Laos.

In his remarks, President Obama acknowledged Legacies’ Executive Director Channapha Khamvongsa. Watch the full speech here.

"Over nine years – from 1964 to 1973 – the United States dropped more than two million tons of bombs here in Laos – more than we dropped on Germany and Japan combined during all of World War II. It made Laos, per person, the most heavily bombed country in history. Given our history here, I believe that the United States has a moral obligation to help Laos heal."

President Obama, Vientiane, Laos, Sep 6, 2016

His pledge meant a doubling of annual U.S. funding and moved us closer to making Laos safe from millions of leftover unexploded bombs. We were so grateful for this new commitment, but nothing was or is guaranteed. We have had to redouble our efforts in Congress in light of new government leadership, making sure the UXO issue remains a priority to guarantee strong legislative support.

This is what we - together with your support - accomplished over the past year:

**WIN! $60 million of President Obama's $90 million pledge was authorized as part of the 2016 & 2017 budget!**

- **Outreach to Congress - We Brought Your Voice To Capitol Hill:** We solidified support of current champions and identified new advocates in Congress, leading up to the FIRST bipartisan "Support Unexploded Ordnance Removal in Laos" Dear Colleague letter, led by Rep. McCollum (D-MN) and Rep.
Duffy (R-WI). We are grateful to the 18 members of Congress that signed on to the letter and to you, our amazing supporters, who kept the UXO issue and funding commitment on the radar of your representatives. THANK YOU.

- **Community Engagement - Growing our Strength:** We held our highly successful Fashion Meets Philanthropy: LaoNow event with more than 345 guests from 25 states and four countries, signaling strong support for making Laos safe for future generations. We brought our curriculum and exhibit to more than 10 states, including RI, NY, PA, CA, WA, OR, DC, VA, MA, and mobilized new supporters along the way.

- **Our First Laos Learning Trip** was a great success! Eleven Legacies board members, friends, and supporters got a first-hand look at current development in the areas of UXO clearance, assistance to survivors, and risk education. They returned to the U.S. energized to share their experience and to educate others.

- **Leveraging Media and Public Outreach:** We monitored the UXO issue in Laos and made sure to keep it on the public radar through social media and outreach to countless media outlets, including CNN, ABC, National Geographic, PBS, and many more. A team from Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown joined us to meet with survivors in Luang Prabang, highlighting the importance of life-saving UXO removal in Laos.

The last year has not been easy, but we have so much to be proud of. For those of us who have fought so hard for so long to bring this history to light, President Obama's historic speech was a major milestone. **THANK YOU** for helping us get this far and for sharing this special moment. In honor and commemoration of his historic announcement, Legacies of War is collecting testimonies from supporters worldwide. Write us today at info@legaciesofwar.org. **We want to hear from YOU: Where were you when President Obama made this historic announcement? What did the president's visit last year mean to you?**

Remember, none of this new funding will go to Legacies of War. We are working hard to ensure that the last installment ($30 million) of the pledged $90 million is included in the 2018 U.S. budget, so our partners on the ground can continue their life-saving work.

I'm writing today to ask you to help us launch the next phase of work with the gift of hope to Legacies of War. **We need to raise at least $10,000 by the end of September to build on the success we have had over the past year, which would expand critical support in Congress and develop the next generation of advocates who will lead us to finish this job in our lifetime.**

**As you think about what you can do for future generations and make the world a better place, will you please make a tax-deductible gift today of $1,000, $500, $100, $50, or $25 to help us continue our crucial work?**

We have made incredible strides together. Your gift today will keep our voice strong and help us to support this important cause.

Thank you and Kop chai lai lai,

Channapha Khamvongsa
Executive Director

After you make your gift, will you share this appeal with 5 people who could make a similar contribution?

#THANKYOUOBAMA
Read our Executive Director, Channapha Khamvongsa’s letter to the American people that was featured in the White House newsletter!

NUMBERS AND FACTS

Legacies of War: Fact Sheet

Legacies of War: Press Release on the Second Installment ($30m)

Office of Senator Leahy: Press Release on UXO Removal in Laos

ABC News - The Bombing of Laos: By the Numbers

White House Fact Sheet: U.S.-Laos Relations

U.S. Department of State - To Walk the Earth in Safety: U.S. Clearance Efforts Throughout The World

LEGACIES IN THE NEWS

White House Medium, After a War, A New Legacy By Channapha Khamvongsa

The Nation, The Heroes Behind Obama’s Historic Announcement in Laos By John Cavanagh

The Diplomat, Obama in Laos. Cleaning Up After The Secret War By Brett Dakin

CNN, My Friends Were Afraid Of Me By Rebecca Wright

PBS, Decades On, Millions Of American Unexploded Bombs Left Behind Still Kill And Maim Laos By Mike Cerre

PRESIDENT OBAMA’S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LEGACIES OF WAR
"We're connected by Channapha Khamvongsa, who came to America when she was seven years old and who is back here today. And for years, she urged the United States to do more to help remove unexploded bombs here in Laos. 'There are many, many problems in this world that might not be able to be solved in a lifetime,' she said, 'but this is one we can fix.' So, Channapha, we thank you for working to fix this problem."

U.S. President Obama acknowledging Legacies of War's Executive Director Channapha Khamvongsa, Vientiane, Laos, Sep 6, 2016