REMEMBERING THE WAR AND FRED BRANFMAN

Dear Channapha,

"The Vietnam War" PBS series by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, which has already garnered millions of views, demonstrates the importance of documenting history and the power of storytelling. A core mission of Legacies of War
is to educate people about the history of war in Laos and the lingering impact of leftover bombs.

At the heart of our educational programs are the historic drawings featured in the *Voices from the Plain of Jars* book. The drawings, collected in refugee camps by Fred Branfman and Bouangeun Luangpraseut (Ngeun), were created by Lao villagers who survived the U.S. bombings in Xieng Khouang. Their testimonies are also featured in the *Legacies of War National Traveling Exhibition*.

This fall marks the third anniversary of Fred Branfman's death. His stirring testimony before a Senate subcommittee in 1971 helped to expose the toll of bombings on civilians during the Secret War in Laos. The drawings, rediscovered in 2001, helped revitalize a forgotten history and became the inspiration for founding Legacies of War.

One of the bombing survivors, a 37-year old woman, reflects: "Our lives became like those of animals desperately trying to escape their hunters...Human beings, whose parents brought them into the world and carefully raised them with overflowing love despite so many difficulties, these human beings would die from a single blast as explosions burst, lying still without moving again at all. And who then thinks of the blood, flesh, sweat and strength of their parents, and who will have charity and pity for them?...In reality, whatever happens, it is only the innocent who suffer."

Laos became the most heavily bombed country per capita in the history of warfare, displacing thousands of villagers who fled to caves in the mountains or were airlifted to distant refugee camps. These simple stories and drawings, created by ordinary villagers, bore powerful testimony to the devastating events in their lives.

Fred's *Voices* book, just like the Burns/Novick documentary, has become a crucial tool for encouraging dialogue and telling the recurring stories of tragedy and resilience. At a time when our nation once again seems fragmented, commemorating the ones that have lost their lives and suffered on all sides of the war can help reunite us. We have the ability to move from tragedy to unified action by supporting the programs that assist survivors of the bombing some 40 years after the war's end.

For every $50 donation, Walt Haney, our long-term Legacies champion and Fred's friend, will donate a *Voices from the Plain of Jars* book. That means for every $50 donation, you'll help keep Fred's legacy and the survivors' stories alive, while bringing relief and hope to present-day survivors of the bombing.

Your generous donation to Legacies of War will sustain our advocacy and education efforts, and help ensure that U.S. government support for bomb clearance and victim assistance in Laos remains strong.

Learn more about our upcoming events and how you can get involved with Legacies of War [here](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1129006948909&format=html&printFrame=true). Please consider making a tax-deductible gift today and receive a copy of *Voices from the Plain of Jars* book. Your gift will support our educational programs. Help us make Laos safe for future generations!

Thank you,

The Legacies Team

After you make your gift, will you share this appeal with 5 people who could make a similar contribution?
REMEMBERING THE WAR
- LEGACIES' COMMUNITY OUTREACH -

VIENNA, VA (Sep 21, 2017)
Legacies of War was invited to be a guest speaker at the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 227, a local non-profit which promotes and supports a full range of issues important to Vietnam veterans. About 30 veterans attended to learn about Legacies of War’s work and the ramifications of war that have a lasting impact on Laos to this day. The chapter also presented our Executive Director Channapha Khamvongsa with a ‘challenge coin’ in recognition of her service and achievements.

LANCASTER, PA (SEP 19, 2017)
Read a powerful testimony and op-ed by Legacies of War’s board chair Titus Peachey who in the 1960s was one of the several hundred conscientious objectors who performed alternative service in Vietnam during the war. Titus also represented Legacies at the Lancaster Peace Fest on September 24, 2017, where he educated community members on the UXO issue in Laos.

MINNESOTA
In addition to the national broadcast of “The Vietnam War” on PBS, which despite being 18 hours long, does not cover much of the neighboring U.S. involvement in Laos and Cambodia, local stations throughout the US, such as TPT - Twin Cities PBS in Minnesota, are supplementing the series with more content about the other wars and conflicts, such as the Secret War in Laos.

WASHINGTON, DC
Congratulations to our Executive Director Channapha Khamvongsa (MPP ’02) who was selected by the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy Alumni Board to receive the 2017 McCourt School Distinguished Alumni Award. The award recognizes an alumni with a record of outstanding accomplishments and demonstrated service.

NEW YORK, NY (Oct 2017 - April 2018)
This fall, the New-York Historical Society presents the groundbreaking exhibition, The Vietnam War: 1945-1975 from October 4, 2017 to April 22, 2018. Legacies of War is honored to be part of the exhibit during Veterans Week. Take your family to come see our loaned pieces in the Laos section and join our talk in November!

WALT HANEY PAPERS
Walt Haney has been gathering photos and accounts of Laotian refugees for the past 40 years. His work includes A Survey of Civilian War Casualties Among Refugees from the Plain of Jars, which was reprinted in the records of the 1971 Senate Hearings before the
Subcommittee to Investigate Problems Connected with Refugees and Escapess, and "The Bombing of Laos and the Browning of One Volunteer," a paper presented at the 15th Annual Meeting of the Association Third World Studies in 1997. Read more about the Walt Haney Papers and Walt's reflections here. We are grateful for his continuous support in keeping Fred's legacy alive.

THANK YOU - KOP CHAI LAI LAI

Legacies of War would like to thank all of our donors - our longtime supporters and first-time donors alike - who are critical in helping us build for the future. Our work would simply not be possible without your generous donations. We are deeply grateful to you.

For those of you who have not given yet, receive a book as a gift for every donation of $50 or more to help us keep Fred's legacy and the survivors' stories alive. Support our educational programs. Please consider making your tax-deductible gift to Legacies of War.

The Legacies of War Team

Thank You / Kop chai / Ua koi tsaug