



PRESS RELEASE

Legacies of War Announces Planned Leadership Transition Search Begins for New Executive Director

March 4, 2019 (Washington, DC) - As Legacies of War celebrates its 15th anniversary, the organization will be making a planned transition to new leadership in August 2019. Founder Channapha Khamvongsa will be stepping down as Executive Director and begin serving as its Senior Advisor in the interim and as a Board Member in the future. A search for a new Executive Director begins today.

"This transition comes at a time of tremendous success and stability for Legacies of War. Our strong advocacy work has resulted in historic increases in U.S. funding to remove millions of leftover bombs in Laos, support thousands of survivors and educate Americans about the Secret War," said Alexandra Hiniker, Board Chair. "Together with Channapha, we will conduct the Executive Director search and welcome new leadership for the next phase of Legacies of War."

The Board, along with a newly-created Transition Advisory Committee comprised of longstanding supporters, has already begun implementing the transition plan. The transition comes at a time of stability and growth for Legacies of War. In 2018, the organization raised a record \$400,000 to support its mission. It continues to monitor the historic U.S. commitment of \$90 million to the Lao unexploded ordnance (UXO) sector. Legacies of War is comprised of a strong, engaged Board of Advisors with a large and committed network of supporters in Laos and the U.S., including policymakers and many from the Laotian American diaspora.

For the past 15 years, Legacies has helped to create peace for the people of Laos and raise awareness in the U.S. about the lingering impact of the Secret War. We are looking forward to the next phase of this critical work: seeing the results of the first-ever national survey and advocating for renewed commitment of Congressional funding for UXO removal in Laos.

The Executive Director job announcement was released today, with the plan to hire a new director by August 2019.

Legacies of War (www.legaciesofwar.org)

The **mission** of Legacies of War is to raise awareness about the **history** of the Vietnam War-era bombing in Laos and advocate for the clearance of unexploded bombs, to provide space for **healing** the wounds of war, and to create greater **hope** for a future of peace.

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