



PRESS RELEASE

Legacies of War Announces New Members to Board of Directors

October 27, 2017 (Washington, D.C.) - Legacies of War is excited to announce the appointment of six new members to its Board of Directors. This growth, from seven members to thirteen, will support the capacity and sustainability of the organization and help to drive Legacies' mission and growth forward.

"I am very pleased about the new additions to our board. Coming from a diverse range of geographic and professional backgrounds, the new members will provide Legacies with a fresh outlook and help us to forge a path forward," said Titus Peachey, Board Chair.

The new appointments include:

- **Suzette Gabriel-Schoebitz** is a jewelry designer based in Munich, Germany. A former classical ballet dancer, she later studied the craft of jewelry and created her own label, Suzette.edu. In 2011 she began a new project, Hoi Sang, to work with the jewelry craftsmen in Luang Prabang creating forgotten and new jewelry. She resides in Munich, New York and Luang Prabang.
- **Ambassador Douglass Hartwick (Ret.)** was the U.S. Ambassador to Laos from 2001-2004, during which he worked closely with the Lao and Hmong-American communities in Minnesota, Washington and California and oversaw the signing of the first U.S.-Lao Bilateral agreement since the Vietnam War in 2003. Formerly he was on the faculty of the National Defense University, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for South Asia, and office director at the State Department for the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore. He resides in Arizona.
- **Alexandra Hiniker** is Strategic Relationships Manager for the New York City Mayor's Office for International Affairs, where she is responsible for highlighting the connections between global and local sustainability efforts. Before joining the Mayor's Office, she was the PAX Representative to the United Nations. Previously, she worked on humanitarian disarmament in Cambodia, Laos, and Lebanon. She resides in New York City.
- **Sera Koulabdara** is the Director of Heart Walk at the American Heart Association (AHA) in Columbus, Ohio. She previously worked in Lommel, Belgium as an International Business Consultant with Big Media Group. She is passionate and committed to making an impact in her local community and beyond, serving as a Board Member of Fashion Week Columbus, a member of United Way's Women's Leadership Council and a volunteer Finance Teacher with Junior Achievement. She resides in Ohio.

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- **Breda Phoumany**, a longtime supporter of Legacies, was born in Nongkhai refugee camp in Thailand. Her family is from Laos and landed in Elmira, NY in 1980. She has cultivated a career in Wine/Spirits Import and Distribution management and is currently working for Santa Margherita USA as a Metro Division District Manager while pursuing her WSET 3 & Master of Wine certifications. She resides in Upstate New York.
- **Terence Szuplat** is the founder of Global Voices, a strategic communications and speechwriting firm that draws on his 20 years of experience supporting political, business, and nonprofit leaders. As a foreign policy speechwriter for President Barack Obama from 2009 to 2017, Terry helped develop hundreds of speeches on U.S. foreign policy and global security and joined the President on visits to more than 40 countries, including Laos. He resides in Virginia.

More details about the board members can be found at www.legaciesofwar.org.

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Legacies of War was founded in 2004 to raise awareness about the history of the Vietnam War-era bombing of Laos and advocate for greater U.S. funding to address its legacy. For interviews or additional information please contact Channapha Khamvongsa, Executive Director, channapha@legaciesofwar.org.