

## MY LAI VIGIL SPEAKERS AND MUSICIANS

MARCH 16, 2018

**Howard Jones** is University Research Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Alabama. After receiving his Ph.D. from Indiana University, he taught at the University of Nebraska before coming to the University of Alabama in 1974, where he chaired the Department of History in Tuscaloosa for eight years. A recipient of both the John F. Burnum Distinguished Faculty Award for teaching and research and the Blackmon-Moody Outstanding Professor Award, he taught courses in American foreign relations and the U.S.-Vietnam War. His most recent book, *My Lai: Vietnam, 1968, and the Descent into Darkness*, appeared in June 2017 as part of the “Pivotal Moments in American History” series at Oxford University Press.

**Earl Martin** is a renovation carpenter in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. During the American War in Vietnam, Earl and his wife Pat worked five years in the central Vietnam province of Quang Ngai, assisting farmer families forced from their home into evacuee camps and, toward the end of the war, addressing the problem of unexploded munitions left lying in the fields. Earl stayed in Quang Ngai in 1975 when the revolutionaries took over the province. He wrote a book called, *Reaching the Other Side*, chronicling that dramatic time. Earl has visited the villages of My Lai many times since they were just 10 kilometers from his home. The massacre occurred just one day after Earl and Pat married in 1968. Earl most recently visited My Lai last month.

**Rose Berger** is a Catholic poet and writer who has worked for social change movements for 40 years. With a Master's degree in poetry, she is poetry editor and senior associate editor at *Sojourners* magazine ([sojo.net](http://sojo.net)), which has a mission to inspire hope and action by articulating the biblical call to social justice. She has lived for more than 30 years in Washington, D.C., in the Anacostia watershed, in unceded Piscataway territory.

**Charles Cray** is an activist, policy analyst and investigator who has worked over 25 years working on environmental and corporate campaigns. He is currently the director of political and business policy for Greenpeace here in the U.S. Charlie Cray also co-founded Halliburton Watch while directing the Center for Corporate Policy. He is a former editor of *Multinational Monitor*, the author of numerous articles about corporate crime and countering power, and the co-author of [The People's Business: Controlling Corporations and Restoring Democracy](#).

**Terry Provance** is coordinator for the Vietnam Peace Commemoration Committee, sponsor of today's vigil. He is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and a life-long social justice activist. In 1965 as a high school senior, Terry wrote his first letter against the war to LBJ and received numerous State Department mailings. He went on to organize for Oct 1969 Moratorium in Pittsburgh and Nov 1969 Mobilization in DC. From seminary he worked closely with Dan and Phil Berrigan and the Harrisburg Defense Committee, Daily Death Toll Project with FOR, May Day, and coordinated two sit-ins in front of White House and Harrisburg Court House. Later he worked for Pentagon Papers Peace Project in LA in support of Dan Ellsberg and Tony Russo and then Medical Aid for Indochina in Boston visiting Hanoi in spring 1973 after Christmas bombing raid Dec 72, and Indochina Peace Campaign in Pittsburgh. Arrested 6 times for anti-war protests in DC, Harrisburg, Los Angeles and Miami, he went on to work for AFSC in its Peace Education Division. He later served a congregation in Pittsburgh, worked for human rights in South American and retired after being executive director for Oikocredit USA, an international microfinance organization.

**Joyce Hollyday** is a founding co-pastor of Circle of Mercy church in Asheville, NC, and a former editor of *Sojourners* magazine. She works with undocumented women in Western North Carolina and is the author of several books, including *Clothed with the Sun: Biblical Women, Social Justice, and Us*.

**Bill Ramsey** was a Vietnam War draft resister and has refused to pay federal war taxes since the Vietnam War. He worked for 21 years for the American Friends Service Committee in High Point, NC, Atlanta and St. Louis. He founded and operated the Human Rights Action Service for 20 years. Presently he works with congregations and immigrant communities as they consider offering sanctuary in Western North Carolina.

**Thien Phuoc Quang Tran** grew up in a Mennonite family in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and graduated from University of Social Science and Humanity with major in Public Relations. Thien Phuoc is a member of the Vietnam Mennonite Church in HCMC where his father is the pastor. Thien Phuoc is currently the Program Assistant at the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) United Nations office. Together with Doug Hostetter, a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War and Director of MCC UN Office, they have engaged in several story telling tours where Doug speaks about his experience with MCC in Vietnam during the war, and Thien Phuoc talks about growing up as a Mennonite in Vietnam after the end of the war, and the current efforts of MCC to assist the victims of Agent Orange, a defoliant used in the war 50 years ago by the U.S government, that is still causing cancers and deformities in children born today.

**David Hamilton** has been a clean energy and environmental activist for more than 30 years - with music as an ongoing sideline. During his career, he has logged long leadership stints with the Public Interest Research Groups, the Sierra Club, and the Alliance to Save Energy. On the musical side, he has played with several groups around DC and been a part of dozens of benefits and rallies for causes of justice, equality, and a clean planet.

**DC Labor Chorus** is a musical ensemble composed of union members and social justice activists from the Washington, DC area. We sing for all who labor, we sing to organize. The DC Labor Chorus performs at concerts, rallies, demonstrations, and picket lines.

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