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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

File

Dr. William F. Treadwell
1527 S. Flagler Drive
W. Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Dear Bill:

Mr. Meese asked me to respond to your letter concerning Miss Chris Noel.

I have had several occasions to talk with Miss Noel. She has been a persistent and able advocate for Vietnam veterans rights.

Recently Miss Noel took me up on my long-standing offer to take her to lunch at the White House. We had an excellent conversation. I took the opportunity to introduce her to Mrs. Elizabeth Dole, Assistant to the President for Public Liaison and now the President's nominee for Secretary of Transportation.

I share your admiration for Chris Noel and, as the President's liaison to veterans organizations, look forward to involving her in other appropriate events.

Cordially,

Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

cc - Mr. Edwin Meese III



CHRIS NOEL

DR. WILLIAM F. TREADWELL

1527 ~~1527~~ S. Flagler Drive
W. Palm Beach, Fla. 33401
305-655-4776

November 5th 1982

Mr Edwin Meese
White House
Washington, D.C.

*I took her to lunch
inter to Mr. Gale*

Dear Mr. Meese:

Several weeks ago I sent a letter to the White House concerning the Vietnam Veterans week-long Festivities and Memorial Dedication from November 10th through the 14th.

In the note I brought attention to Miss Chris Noel, who was the Voice of American (Armed) Forces Radio during the Vietnam War for more than four years. Chris is an actress-singer and will release her new Album, Forgotten Man, while she is in the Capitol as the guest of Stars and Stripes publication.

Enclosed are several press releases which tell about her activities during the ~~week, festivities~~ week.

I understand that a group of Vietnam Veterans have been invited to the White House to meet President Reagan. I had hoped that an invitation would be extended to her for this meeting.

She can be reached, while in Washington, at the following address:

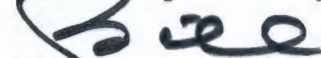
c/o Patricia Hughes
Stars and Stripes Publication
44 G. Street NE
Washington D.C.
789-0422

If possible I would appreciate a letter from the President complimenting her on her continued activities on behalf of these Veterans. She visits hospitals, consults with the men and their families, tours the country for radio and television appearances on their behalf and is giving the proceeds of this Album to the Vietnam Veterans Organization. She has sacrificed many theatrical engagements to appear with the Veteran groups.

Your immediate attention to this request will be greatly appreciated.

Congressman Dan Mica has sent her a commendation for her work. You might recall my name as I was very active in the Presidential campaign with Earl E.T. Smith and others in the Palm Beach area.

Most Respectfully,


Bill Treadwell

CONTACT:
Bill Treadwell
1527 S. Flagler Dr.
W. Palm Beach, Fl 33401

CHRIS NOEL, ACTRESS-SINGER AND VOICE OF AMERICAN FORCES RADIO,
TO APPEAR IN VIETNAM VETERANS PARADE, WASHINGTON D.C. SAT. NOV.13th

The thousands of Vietnam Veterans who will be in Washington, D.C. during the week of November 10th to the 14th will again be treated to the sultry voice and beautiful smile of actress-singer Chris Noel who was the Voice of American Forces Radio during the Vietnam War. Miss Noel will be in the Capitol as the guest of The Stars and Stripes publication to participate in all the activities including the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial.

For more than four years, Chris Noel cooed, "Hi luv" to the boys. She'd spin a few records, do some interviews, make dedications and cheer the men on. Not satisfied to do Radio shows, Miss Noel made several trips to the battlefields and hospitals. "I felt I was responsible for the morale of thousands of men. And it was up to me to help keep them alive," Chris recalls.

Chris Noel remains very active in show business. She has just completed her new album, Forgotten Man, which will be introduced nationally in Washington. Before coming to the Capitol, she had a singing engagement in Los Angeles and was recently informed that she is being considered for the female lead in the forthcoming motion picture on the legend of Radio's famous Uncle Don. It is titled "That'll Hold the Little Bastards."

#

PRESS CONTACT:

Bill Treadwell
1527 S. Flagler Dr.
W. Palm Beach, Fl 33401
305-655-4776

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRIS NOEL, SINGER-ACTRESS and VOICE OF AMERICAN FORCES RADIO
IN VIETNAM, FEATURED ON ALBUM TO BE RELEASED WEEK OF NOV. 8th.

Chris Noel, singer-actress and the Voice of American Forces Radio during the Vietnam War, is the featured singer in a new album produced by Studio Center in Miami under the Tom and Jerry label. The album will be introduced nationally in Washington, D.C. during the Vietnam Veterans' festivities in the Capitol the week of Nov. 10th to the 14th.

Miss Noel has been invited to be the guest of Stars and Stripes publication for the week long activities which include the Dedication of the Vietnam Memorial, the vigil, a Parade, unit reunions, rap sessions with the Vets and several radio and television appearances.

The album, produced in a limited edition for its introduction at this celebration, is an E.P. of cross-over Country music. Chris Noel sings, "Matter of Survival", "What Room Was The Holiday In ?", "Forgotten Man" and "Hungry Eyes." A special cover was produced by Noel Productions, Inc. showing an American G.I. with his back to the camera in a jungle scene as a backdrop and the glamorous Chris Noel in her American Forces Radio working togs.

The title of the album is FORGOTTEN MAN

Additional information on the album is available from Sandy Todd, Studio Center, 14875 N.E. 20th Avenue, North Miami, Fl. 33181. Phone: 305-944-2911.

#

CONTACT:
Bill Treadwell
1527 S. Flagler Dr.
W. Palm Beach, Fl 33401
305-655-4776

CHRIS NOEL, ACTRESS-SINGER, WILL WEAR DESIGNER RED, WHITE AND BLUE
BY VILLAGER FOR APPEARANCE IN VIETNAM VETERANS PARADE, SAT. NOV. 13th

Chris Noel, actress-singer and the Voice of American Forces Radio during the Vietnam War, has selected a designer suit by Villager of New York made of solid velvet for her appearance in the Vietnam Veterans Parade in Washington, D.C. Saturday, November 13th. Miss Noel is the guest of Stars and Stripes publication for the Vietnam Veterans' festivities in the Capitol the week of Nov. 10th to the 14th.

The Villager suit has been designed by Kathy Flynn and Elaine Brandt. The skirt and vest are Navy. The vest has braiding of silk cord and is quilted. The Bolero jacket is in lipstick red. The solid velvet is the newest ensemble by Villager. They call it a 'day into evening' type of fabric. A white blouse with ruffles fills out the combination.

During her stay in Washington, Chris Noel will introduce her latest album, Forgotten Man, which is dedicated to the Vietnam Veterans.

Miss Noel has appeared in several motion pictures with such stars as Steve McQueen, Elvis Presley, Richard Chamberlain, Robert Goulet and in numerous television shows including Chips, The Edge of Night, My Three Sons and Bob Hope Presents.

During her week-long activities, Chris Noel will participate in the Dedication of the Vietnam Memorial, the vigil, unit reunions and rap sessions with the Veterans. She will be making several radio and television appearances.

#

Chris Noel

PRESS CONTACT:

Bill Treadwell
1527 S. Flagler Dr.
West Palm Beach, Fl
33401

305-655-4776

Height - 5' 6"
Weight - 120
Hair - Blonde
Eyes - Green

SAG - AFTRA - A E A

TELEVISION

Fly Away Home	Special Appearance
CHiPs	Co-star
Going Platinum	Guest Star
Detour to Terror	Co-star
Wild Times	Co-star
The Lieutenant	Series Regular
Bewitched	Guest Star
Dr. Kildare	Guest Star
Hollywood Palace	Guest Star
Bob Hope Presents	Guest Star
My Three Sons	Guest Star
Perry Mason	Guest Star
Occasional Wife	Guest Star
) Eleventh Hour	Guest Star
Smothers Brothers	Guest Star
My Mother the Car	Guest Star
Burke's Law	Guest Star
Love On a Rooftop	Guest Star
The Edge of Night	

COMMERCIALS:

LIST AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
OVER 300 ON CAMERA
OVER 200 VOICE OVERS

VOICE TAPE AVAILBLE UPON REQUEST

MOTION PICTURES

Where Have All the Soldiers Gone	Narrator
The Fourth Reich	Lead
Soldier in the Rain	Co-star w/Steve McQueen
Glory Stompers	Lead w/Dennis Hopper
Girl Happy	Co-star w/Elvis Presley
Joy In the Morning	Co-star w/Richard Chamberlain
Honeymoon Hotel	Co-star w/Robert Goulet
Diary of a Bachelor	Co-star
Get Yourself a College Girl	Co-star w/Nancy Sinatra, Chad Everett
For Singles Only	Co-star w/John Saxon
Wild, Wild Winter	Lead
Beach Ball	Lead

RADIO

A Date With Chris

Number One Daily Radio Series

American Forces Radio

SPECIAL EVENTS

Miss Christmas Got the Blues

The Chris Noel Story

Soon - MOW

A new EP album by Chris Noel FORGOTTEN MAN

"Dedicated to Viet Nam Veterans"



They were thousands of miles away from home. From family. From friends. Their shelter was sometimes tents. Sometimes fields. Sometimes swamps. They were often hot. Often cold. Often wet. And the only sound which filled their days and nights was gunfire. Sometimes theirs. Sometimes the enemy's.

Except when Chris spoke to them. Except when Chris sang to them. Hers was the sultry voice on American Forces radio that cooed, "Hi, luv," to the boys in Viet Nam. She'd spin a few records, do some interviews, make some dedications. Suddenly, home wasn't so very far away. And they weren't so very lonely.

For Chris, herself, the job of "entertaining the troops," soon became more than just another form of entertainment. It had become a consuming, moral obligation. "I felt I was responsible for the morale of thousands of men," says Chris. "It was up to me to keep them alive."

"Today, the Viet Nam vets are truly this country's forgotten men. They were shot at, crippled and mentally tortured in Southeast Asia. But the torture continues today. Here. At home. We lost 57,000 men in Viet Nam. Since the war, that figure has been equalled in suicides at home. There must be something desperately wrong with our society if it allows our vets to continue to have these problems."

FORGOTTEN MAN is an album of yesterday's memories that today's public is trying to forget. We can't allow that to happen. FORGOTTEN MAN and MATTER OF SURVIVAL both speak of the anguish and the unanswered questions Chris Noel witnessed first-hand, during her five years' visits to Viet Nam. WHAT ROOM WAS THE HOLIDAY IN? and HUNGRY EYES help reveal more of the other side of Chris Noel.

To this day, Chris Noel is a highly-regarded figure to Viet Nam veterans. They have saluted her with many awards and citations for "thoughtfulness and courage in visiting the troops in the combat zones." Now Chris Noel is saluting her forgotten men, with profits from this album going to the Viet Nam veterans, where needed.

"This music is dedicated to the men and women of the Viet Nam war. For appreciation of their strength, courage and dignity in doing what America asked of them.

Luv You,"

Chris Noel

Chris Noel

"I not only remember Chris as someone special in 'Nam, but as someone whose basic drive has been survival. This is what is so incredible about this woman. It's been an honor participating with her in our continual survival of Viet Nam and post-Viet Nam. Her voice strikes the hearts and minds of all who listen." -- Shad MeShad, creator, National Vet Center Program

"We can never forget somebody like Chris, somebody who did so much for all the vets. She was a memory of home. We needed her and she was there." -- Tom Corey, president, Palm Beach County Chapter, Viet Nam Veteran's of America.

"The sultry voice that echoed through the jungles of 'Nam again springs forth in all its tenderness and sincerity." -- Jerry Sims, Green Beret, Viet Nam

Noel Productions, Inc.
1713 Donna Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

Please send me _____ copies of the EP collector's album recording of FORGOTTEN MAN by Chris Noel @ \$6.00, plus \$1.50 postage and handling per album.
(Florida residents add 5% state sales tax per album)

If autograph is desired, please indicate to whom _____
(First name only)

Please print:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery
Available through Veterans' Organizations

VIETNAM VETERANS IN CONGRESS

Chairman: Tom Daschle, South Dakota
439 Cannon Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

July 29, 1981

Vice Chairman: Leon Panetta, California
431 Cannon Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

STEERING COMMITTEE:

Don Bailey **D**
Pennsylvania

David Bonior **D**
Michigan

Hal Daub **R**
Nebraska

Allen Ertel **D**
Pennsylvania

James Florio **D**
New Jersey

H. John Heinz **R?**
Pennsylvania

John LaFalce **D**
New York

Denny Smith **R**
Oregon

Donald Custis, M.D.
Chief Medical Director
Veterans Administration
810 Vermont Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Dr. Custis:

The enclosed letter and attachments were recently brought to our attention.

We were quite disappointed and disturbed by your distribution of the Accuracy in Media (AIM) report on Agent Orange as well as several comments you made in your accompanying letter.

Our main concern is that you should see fit to distribute to your field staff a document that is obviously not representative of a scientific or medical organization and has little if any knowledge on issues concerning toxic chemicals, public health, or the environment. It is even more distressing, however, to see you, as the Chief Medical Director, encouraging the public dissemination of this material which so blatantly ignores many of the facts and information on the issue it so eagerly seeks to discredit. The VA is thus only perpetuating a campaign of "emotional allegations" to your own employees and the general public which will only serve to aggravate existing tensions between Vietnam veterans and your local VA offices and medical centers.

The AIM report makes no mention of five European epidemiology studies released by the Vietnam Veterans in Congress (VVIC) last year. There is no mention of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) registry on dioxin, where four cohort studies on dioxin exposed workers have been combined to show higher incidence rates for soft tissue sarcomas. There is no mention of evidence presented before the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Medical Facilities and Benefits, July 22, 1980. There is no mention of the potential hazards of other chemicals used in SE Asia, including picloram, cacodylic acid, dapsone, etc. And finally, there is no mention of any of the recommendations or findings of the Interagency Work Group on Phenoxy Herbicides, or its scientific panel.

AIM appears to rest its case on the rather weak and inconclusive results of data gathered from two industrial accidents. One is the Monsanto sponsored epidemiology study of Nitro, West Virginia which found no excessive mortality rate among exposed

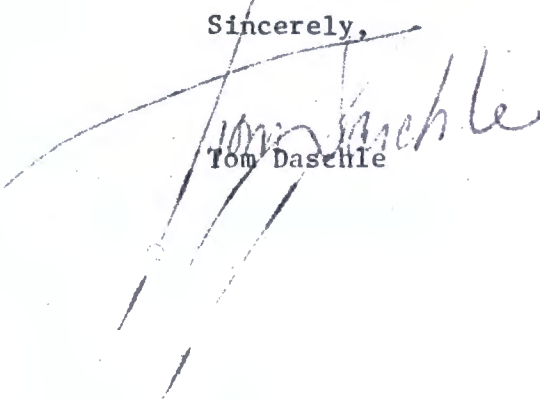
workers, but which excluded workers who did not develop chlor-acne, and fails to provide basic epidemiological data on age distribution or employment history. This study has other shortcomings which I will not delineate. Considering the fact that there is a long interim between exposure to cancer causing substances and their first noticeable symptoms, it is too early to draw any conclusions from the Seveso, Italy, industrial accident. Yet, AIM claims that the evidence from both Nitro and Seveso should absolve the press from reporting on this issue.

Your concern about "anxiety levels" and news accounts based on "emotional allegations" glosses over the basic fact that this would not even be an issue for the VA to be concerned with had you taken the proper steps to educate and inform veterans and their communities in the first place.

Though we applaud your goal of educating your employees and the media on this issue, there are certainly better sources of information which could be used for this purpose than the AIM report, which with its own brand of 'grossly misleading reporting' will only serve to widen the breach and increase the distrust between Vietnam veterans and the VA.

We trust you will take immediate steps to stop the distribution of this material and improve on the quality of information provided your field personnel.

Sincerely,



Tom Daschle



Leon Panetta

VIETNAM VETERANS IN CONGRESS

Chairman: Tom Daschle, South Dakota
439 Cannon Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

July 31, 1981

Vice Chairman: Leon Panetta, California
431 Cannon Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

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Hal Daub
Nebraska

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James Florio
New Jersey

H. John Heinz
Pennsylvania

John LaFalce
New York

Denny Smith
Oregon

Anthony John Messner
Minister of Veterans Affairs
c/o Department of Veterans Affairs
P.O. Box 21
Woden, A.C.T.
2606
Australia

Dear Mr. Messner:

It has come to our attention that you were on a tour of the U.S. recently and met with various officials and veterans regarding issues of concern to Vietnam veterans.

We would like to state our disappointment that you made no effort to meet with representatives of the Vietnam Veterans in Congress Caucus (VVIC). The VVIC is a bi-partisan, bi-cameral group of representatives who served in the armed forces during the Vietnam war and whose goal is to promote the interests of Vietnam veterans in the U.S. Congress.

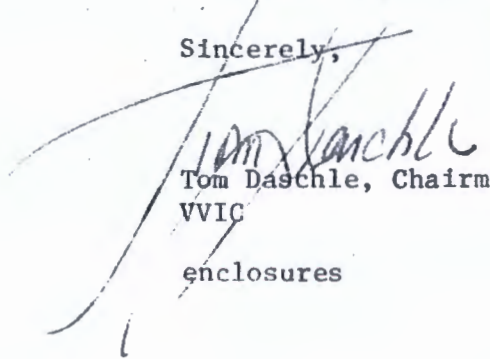
We also understand that you are about to embark on a course of action and formulate policy based on your discussions with U.S. officials. Your decision to do so without the benefit of consultation with our caucus is again a disappointment and a discourtesy.

The U.S. Congress has taken steps to address the Agent Orange problem by adopting legislation first introduced by the caucus to provide priority health care for Vietnam veterans in the VA medical system. We have enclosed copies of this legislation for your information.

With due respect, we would hope that any future discussions with U.S. officials on this issue would also include members of the VVIC.

With best regards, we are

Sincerely,


Tom Daschle, Chairman
VVIC

enclosures

Leon Panetta, Vice-Chairman
VVIC

Morton
Blackwell

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

September 29, 1982

TO: WILLIAM K. SADLEIR, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE 

REQUEST: Participation by President and Mrs. Reagan in the National Salute to Vietnam Veterans candlelight vigil.

PURPOSE: To enable the President and Mrs. Reagan to light the candles, which will officially begin the three-day observance of National Salute to Vietnam Veterans. Additionally, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund would like to present Mrs. Reagan with an award for her outstanding service in assisting in the fund-raising drive and as a member of The National Sponsoring Committee.

BACKGROUND: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund will be sponsoring The National Salute to Vietnam Veterans, which will take place in Washington, D.C. from November 10-14, 1982, is a national celebration to pay tribute to those who suffered during the Vietnam War. The highlight of the celebration is a candlelight vigil which will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 10, and continue through Friday. Event planners expect over 100,000 veterans, families of those who lost their lives or remain missing and others. Rather than visit the Mall and incur those attendant problems, it was felt a ceremony with a representative group in the Rose Garden would be preferred.

This is not the dedication ceremony for the monument.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: None.

DATE AND TIME: November 10, 1982 - 10:00 a.m. DURATION: 20 Mins.

LOCATION: Rose Garden

PARTICIPANTS: Representative group (300) of participants in the National Salute to Vietnam Veterans.

OUTLINE OF EVENT: -- Presentation of award to Mrs. Reagan.
 -- Mrs. Reagan's acceptance remarks.
 -- Presidential remarks.
 -- Lighting of the vigil candles.

REMARKS RQUIRED: Brief acceptance remarks by Mrs. Reagan.
 Brief Presidential remarks.

MEDIA COVERAGE: Full press coverage.

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole, James Rosebush

OPPOSED BY: None.

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell.

September 14, 1982

**VIETNAM
VETERANS
MEMORIAL
FUND**

Mrs. Ronald Reagan
Attn: James Rosebush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Reagan:

I am pleased to tell you our plans for the National Salute to Vietnam Veterans are progressing along very well. As you are probably aware, this national celebration will take place from November 10 to 14, 1982 in our nation's capital. At that time, we expect hundreds of thousands of Vietnam veterans, the families of those who gave their lives or remain missing, and others will gather in Washington for what will surely be among the largest, most patriotic, and moving tribute that our country has ever witnessed.

A special highlight of the National Salute is the candlelight vigil that will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 10 and continue, round-the-clock through Friday, November 12.

As the wife of the Commander-in-Chief and an active member of our National Sponsoring Committee, we would like to invite you to light the first candle at the beginning of the vigil, to appropriately open our National Salute to Vietnam Veterans. We can think of no finer tribute to those we will remember during this vigil than to have you participate in this special opening ceremony.

You have been a great supporter of this long overdue memorial to Vietnam veterans and your assistance to our fund-raising drive was a tremendous boost to our campaign. Because of your support we have an award that we would be most pleased to present to you whenever your schedule allows. I do hope that we will have the opportunity to meet you and to present this award very soon.

We appreciate your continued support and hope to hear from you very soon.

My highest regard,

Sincerely,

Jan C. Scruggs
President

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Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
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United States Senator
from Virginia
Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Ret.*
Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Army
The Hon. Joseph C. Zensel*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 28, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL K. DEEVER

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

SUBJECT: National Salute to Vietnam Veterans

Attached is a letter inviting President and Mrs. Reagan to serve as the Co-Chairmen of the "National Salute to Vietnam Veterans" that will take place from November 10 to 14, 1982.

I recommend that President and Mrs. Reagan accept this invitation. By accepting this honor, President and Mrs. Reagan will affirm their appreciation and respect for the thousands of Americans who sacrificed so much for the United States in the Vietnam conflict.

I would also like to point out that Mrs. Reagan presently serves on the National Sponsoring Committee for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

Thank you for considering this request.

*Informal
Anne Wroblewski 7/28
7905*

DATE: 7/13

TO: Morton Blackwell

Writer requests to
see Pres about the
Vietnam Veterans.

FROM: Maureen Keegan
Special Response
Presidential Correspondence
Room 91, Ext 2278

497

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

7/10/81

NOTE FOR MAUREEN KEEGAN

Maureen -

Re your question to me here,
we have consistently sent
along to Morton Blackwell
all requests to see the
President about the Vietnam
Veterans -- you might want,
therefore, to let him see
this one.

mary

Mary Rawlins

DATE: 7/1

TO: Mary Rawlins

Can I turn down
request to meet w/
Pres in my response?

FROM: Maureen Keegan
Special Response
Presidential Correspondence
Room 91, Ext 2278

ID 8102795 DATE 810625 WHITE HOUSE GIFT UNIT sbh

NAME McCORMACK, Michael, J.
Last First Middle

ADDRESS c/o ACBA Publishing Co.
1120 North Keystone Avenue, Chicago
Street City

STATE IL ZIP 60651

COUNTRY _____

CATEGORY CODE 0104 GIFT INTENDED FOR

☒ P President	F Personal Friend — Under Minimal Value
☐ F First Lady	G Personal Friend — Over Minimal Value
☐ B President and First Lady	H Foreign Official — Under Minimal Value
☐ R First Family, Other	I Foreign Official — Over Minimal Value
☐ W White House Staff	DONOR ☒ P General Public — Under Minimal Value
☐ O Other	Q General Public — Over Minimal Value
	V VIP — Under Minimal Value
	W VIP — Over Minimal Value
	O Other — Under Minimal Value
	T Other — Over Minimal Value

DESCRIPTION Posters, three calendars with a large picture of the President, 28"x21", four posters with the Iranian Crisis, two with the Forgotten Warriors(the Vietnam veterans) , both approx 23"x18". Published by Donor.

ORGANIZATION ACBA Company

TITLE Mr.

RECEIVED BY ☒ M Mail Room
☐ C Congressional Liaison Staff
☐ P Presented Personally
☐ S Staff Other Than Congressional Liaison
☐ O Other

ACKNOWLEDGED BY _____ FORM _____ DATE _____

DISPOSITION ☒ AR Archives
☐ CA Children's Hospital
☐ CB Other Charity
☐ DS Destroyed

PR President	RA Returned to Sender, Commercial
FL First Lady	RB Returned to Sender, Over Minimal Value
FO First Family, Other	RC Returned to Sender, Other
WH Residence	DA Camp David
PS Presidential Staff	EW East Wing
FS First Lady Staff	WW West Wing
	OH Other

ARCHIVE BOX # _____

COMMENT Non-gift, Send to Special Reply, Request for help from the President pertaining to the protesting of Vietnam veterans.
cc gift unit w/green sheet

1120 N. Keystone Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60651

Published Nationally By:

ASSOCIATED PRESS
U.P.I.
CHICAGO TRIBUNE
L.A. TIMES
NATIONAL STAR
PLAYBOY MAGAZINE
TIME
NEWSWEEK
U.S. NEW REPORT
BOSTON GLOBE
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
and others

President Ronald Reagan
White House
Washington. D.C.

6/17/81

Dear President Reagan:

Enclosed you'll find several posters which I have published. One of the them was for the citizens of your home town, Dixon Ill.

But, the reasons why I am writing this letter is because of my latest poster which is dediacted to the Vietnam Veteran.

Myself, being a Vietnam veteran I would like to see an end to the current problems of protesting Vietnam Veterans. Therefore, I would like to come to Washington and meet with either you or one of your representatives.

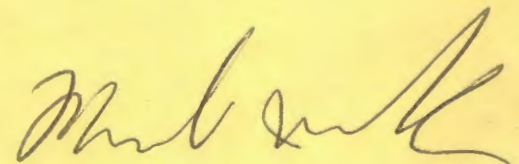
I have talked with both the Veterans in Las Angles and Washington and with your help I think we can end the current protests of the Vietnam Veterans. If not, thanks for your time and I hope you enjoy the posters.

I am particular proud of the poster that I did on you because I have voted for you and very proud to know that I had made the right choice.

Keep up the excellent work.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely



Michael J. McCormack

cc: File

P.S. Please let me know your decision as soon as posible so I can make some plans if you think it's a good idea. Thank you.

312-342-4827

MICHAEL J. MCCORMACK

ACBA PUBLISHING CO.
1120 N. KEYSTONE AVE.
CHICAGO, ILL. 60651

A LEADING NATIONAL PUBLISHING CO.

Jun 18 '81

Mailroom

Michael J. McCormack

1120 North Keystone

Chicago, IL 60651

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*fill
Vietnam
Veterans*

17 June 1981

MEMO FOR ELIZABETH DOLE

FROM: ED THOMAS

John / *Mark (?)* *?*
↗

The attached invitation was received by Ed Meese. He cannot attend. You will note the remark from Tom Bird that it would be a great honor for them if someone from the White House attended the production on 29 June by the Veterans Ensemble Theatre Company. Do you wish to send anyone from your office?

Attachment

JUN 17 RECD

Benefit Coordinators
GLM PRODUCTIONS

Jill D. Larson, Gail Obenreder,
M. L. Schmidt, May Wuthrich

M. NELSON



Distinguished Committee

Herman and Irma Badillo
Bob Balaban
Honorable John L. Behan
Polly Bergen
Congressman David E. Bonior
Zoe Caldwell
Richard Gere
Congressman S. William Green
Gael Greene
Gregory Hines
Marshall Mason
Michael Moriarty
Michael Murphy
Bess Myerson
Joseph Papp
Christopher Reeve
Chita Rivera
Jon Voight

VETCo. is a not-for-profit Off Off Broadway theatre company comprised of professional theatre artists, the majority of whom are Vietnam Veterans. Its purpose is to theatrically explore the moral issues of war and its effect on society. VETCo. has presented two seasons of Equity approved showcase productions in New York City, has performed throughout the United States, most notably at the Ford's Theatre and the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. and has provided entertainment in veterans hospitals in the tri-state area.

This benefit is inspired by company member Jonathan Polansky's play *IN PURSUIT OF LIBERTY* scheduled for a New York run July 1st through the 25th at the American Theatre of Actors, 314 W. 54th Street.

Board of Directors

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Bess Myerson, Joseph Papp and The Veterans Ensemble Theatre Company Invite you to celebrate a Homecoming!

Come light a birthday candle for America
with our Vietnam Veterans

Join us on June 29th, 1981 for the event of the season; a champagne supper starlight harbor cruise for the benefit of the Veterans Ensemble Theatre Company. Dinner will be a potpourri of specialties from some of New York's finest restaurants, with live music, dancing and a sneak preview of the company's new play, *IN PURSUIT OF LIBERTY*. In honor of this celebration the New York Fire Department will present a tri-color water display. We hope you'll be with us!

June 29th, 7:30 p.m.
Circle Line Pier 83 at West 43rd Street
New York City

For further information please call:

(212) 865-8360

(212) 360-2558

*It'd be an honor if you
or someone from The White
House staff would
attend. R.S.V.P. Tom Bird*

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO LIGHT A BIRTHDAY CANDLE FOR
AMERICA WITH THE VETERANS ENSEMBLE THEATRE COMPANY!

☐ I will attend the champagne supper starlight harbor cruise on June 29th.
Enclosed is my check totalling _____ for _____ tickets at \$75. each.
(Ticket cost is tax-deductible.)

☐ I am unable to attend the harbor cruise on June 29th but I wish to celebrate with a tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____.

(name)(s)

(address)

Phone (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Please make checks payable to the Veterans Ensemble Theatre Company.
Acknowledgement/receipt card will follow via mail.

Veterans Ensemble Theatre Company

314 West 54th Street

New York, N.Y. 10019

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: ELIZABETH DOLE
FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL

I recommend that Mrs. Dole agree to accept the petitions on behalf of the President.

Also, I recommend that Secretary Haig or Secretary Weinberger be asked to attend the banquet, but not the President or the Vice-President because the President recently held a bill and proclamation signing ceremony for this same group in the Rose Garden.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

7/13

Morton

Elizabeth needs a firmer
reco. from you on
what to do with this.

the Dial

Frank a
Vietnam
Vet

NOVEMBER 1981

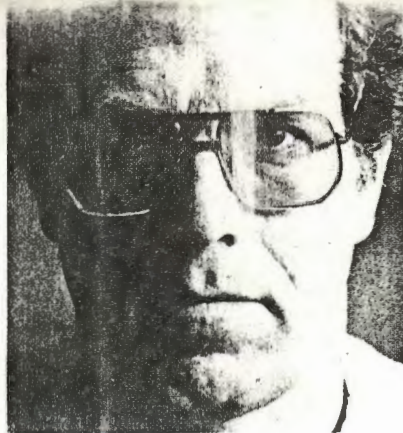
FROM WETA/26 & FM 91

Facing
The
Vietnam
Vet:
Truth
Hurts

Program
Listings:
Page 21

22153 FERNAR774A N882
ROBERTO FERNANDEZ
7774 TURLOCK ROAD
SPRINGFIELD VA 22153

WA



FACING FRANK

Do you have the nerve to confront for an hour
one of the thousands of men who can
never—ever—leave Vietnam?

BY GLORIA EMERSON

Once, walking on an American beach, he was there too: a dead Vietnamese boy in uniform, the holes still in him, sitting by the water trying to rinse his feet and carefully rubbing his legs. Then he was gone, and, after that, I kept off beaches as a rule. Years later, leaving a restaurant on the Upper West Side, there was a bit more trouble. A man in a field jacket, smiling much too much, was outside, ready to toss me the grenade he held, all in fun. My friend Michael Mewshaw, a novelist, did not see the plot but helped me move, and then move some more. He did not ask questions, perhaps he thought my cringing was another example of how deeply the city cuts into people's nerves.

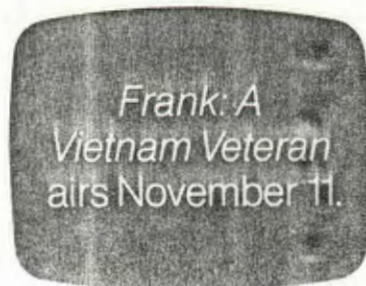
That is all finished now, and I was let off lightly. It is nine years since I left Southeast Asia and our 100-year war

there; there are plenty of other things on my mind and a great deal to do. Long, long ago I found out the little morning nightmare on the beach was a tiny twitch, no more, compared to the hallucinations, the sound tracks, and the spasms of pain affecting the Americans who once did the killing there, and were often killed off themselves, home

choppers cannot come to extract them now. A good many veterans of Vietnam have begun their own deaths and know it.

Perhaps you have heard all this before. Sometimes, talking to them on the telephone, our conversations have the intimacy of prisoners tapping out a code. But no one speaks of a final escape, and nearly a decade of mail keeps bringing the news: this veteran going to jail, that veteran going down for good, another one so psychically out of reach he hangs out on a different planet from the rest of us. It may be, as my friend James Bombard says, that the veterans need jobs more than shrinks. He was a captain and a company commander in Vietnam who has four medals and four degrees and forty-five places on his body where shrapnel flew in. He is looking for a job.

The film on Frank has no war footage, only the face of Frank and the stories he tells to take us over there. Watch it at your own peril, for it requires a response, some courage and judgment of



in Trenton or Kansas or L.A., in one way or another.

In Boston, watching a fifty-minute film called *Frank: A Vietnam Veteran*, one man's recital of losses and ruin, it occurred to me, for the first time, that real help is not on the way and the

Gloria Emerson, a former New York Times reporter in Indochina, won the National Book Award in 1978 for Winners & Losers.



Frank thinks that talking about his Vietnam experiences with the filmmakers helped the process of healing—if healing is possible, that is.

His hair is shorter now and he is more fit than when he made the film, two years ago.

Two of his sons, John (top) and Frank, Jr., are living with him for a while. They help, too.

your own, a signal from the heart—unless yours has turned to fungus and stone—that, at long last, we wish him healed. (See "Frank Talk," page 56.) It is Frank's request that his last name not be used, but little else is secret: his 100 different kinds of fury and fear, his use of alcohol and drugs, the mutilations he saw and the mutilations he performed, a loneliness so savage it sent him into the arms of another man when he wanted to be held. A prostitute was paid to do the same, put her arms around him. He did not ask his wife because he thought real men, who had come through a war, could not need cuddling. She had every reason to be afraid: There was a killer in the house, who knew it, and gave warning. He thought he had become addicted to it.

On the night I called him, Frank had just turned thirty-seven, and the woman living with him gave him a surprise birthday party that was really nice. Two of his sons, now ages thirteen and ten, came from California, where their mother lives, to spend a year with him. Bear in mind that this was one of the better days in his life, yet this is what he had to say: "I really wish I had lost a limb there. I wish it was just a leg, but when it's inside your head"—he paused, then came back to me—"I am dying inside."

So many studies on them have been done by now, so much money spent to certify what a week in Vietnam would have taught you; heavy combat, as they call it, can do you in. Even a day of it can be too much, I think. In a review of twenty-one studies involving 7,751 veterans in all, Dr. Charles Figley, of Purdue University, found that men who were in or near combat exhibited an unusual number of psychological ailments. And one former correspondent, Gustav Hasford, puts it this way: "I have met dozens and dozens of Vietnam veterans who tell me that they have been completely unaffected by the war, while it is obvious that they have pushed it down deep, that they have swallowed a whole continent of pain and sadness that remains undigested

and is choking them one day at a time."

What is most cruel about *Frank: A Vietnam Veteran* is that Frank is more heroic now than he ever could be in that war and does not know it. Nine years without a drink or drugs, although the hallucinations, the grief and the guilt, still creep up on him. Once he thought he was calling in medevacs to get out the wounded. After the first cut of the film was finished, in the summer of 1979, it took him several months to be able to see it, and then only in the company of a friend, a VA psychiatrist. Frank wept watching it.

"I finally came to realize what was wrong with me. I was confronted with Frank, confronted with all the things that I was never able to face before," he says. Then he had to be hospitalized again, twice, and lost a job and got another, as a social worker with abused and neglected children, which he knew he could never keep. The American Society of Friends in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has been a help to him, and he runs workshops for other Vietnam veterans who want to stay sober. He has shown the film twenty-five or thirty times to Vietnam's survivors and their families. The question many of them put to him is always this: "How much money did you make on it?" The answer is none. His father, after seeing the film, only said: "I didn't think they'd let you say all those swearwords." But in the workshops, they understand Frank's anger and Frank's guilt: It may be as malignant, as murderous, as their own. They may even suspect their country did them a terrible wrong and does not much care now that their chances are not good.

"My biggest fear is that I am going to be one of the sixty thousand that commit suicide," Frank says. He insists, as do so many others, that he saw this number somewhere, this 60,000. It moves around the country like a new poison gas. Such a total is false, but what is not is their fear that they cannot make it, that they will start to "lose it," as Frank says. Recently someone proposed to him that they whip out a book to be published on November 11, when the film is shown. He said no, he wasn't

willing to exploit the film that way, it wasn't just his.

"It belongs to every Vietnam veteran who can identify with it," Frank said. "It is ours."

One of the men who will be watching *Frank: A Vietnam Veteran* is George Ewalt, Jr., of Philadelphia, who recently wrote me. "I worked an M-60 machine gun for twelve months—so much for me," he said. His physical ailments: severe tremors when arms are extended, sudden weight loss, weaker arm muscles, numbness that began in the feet and the ankles, then spread, and growths. In 1976 he had an operation to remove two growths, not benign. Five more were taken off last April. He now has fifteen new growths. He and thousands of others blame their illnesses and the birth defects in so many of their children on Agent Orange, an herbicide sprayed on at least five million acres of Vietnam, contaminating American troops as well. Most scientists agree that the dioxin in Agent Orange is a cancer-causing chemical created in the manufacturing process of 2,4,5-T, one of two components in the herbicide.

At thirty-four, he is an underground lineman for the telephone company, the father of an asthmatic child with profound ear problems, an amateur painter, and a patient of a VA psychiatrist's because he suffers flashbacks. He belongs to the veterans' organization, growing every day, called Agent Orange Victims International.

"I don't see any reason for us to have hope. The herbicides have cut a big chunk out of our lives, and we are going to be dropping like flies," Mr. Ewalt says. "And they've ruined such a beautiful country, Vietnam." He knows only one other veteran who was on the M-60, a married man in Newark who is beginning to "flounder real bad." Mr. Ewalt hopes to be able to help him, although he has himself not made it out of An Loc or Loc Ninh, Quon Long or the Michelin Plantation. Perhaps no one really can. "We'll never leave there," George Ewalt says. □