

Vietnam Film Club's Documentary: SOULS OF THE FALLEN - BIEN HOA MILITARY CEMETERY

The Bien Hoa Military Cemetery was established in 1965 as burial grounds for ARVN fallen soldiers who gave their lives to defend their country (1954-1975).

Intended for inauguration on June 19, 1975, the Cemetery was a major construction project of the government of the Republic of Vietnam that involved several agencies. The entire project was based on the "Bee" shape design, a symbol for loyalty:

*Like the bees that serve their only queen bee,
Soldiers fight and die for just one nation's flag*

When Chu Lynh - co-founder and editor of Vietnam Film Club - returned to Vietnam on a family trip in 2003, he decided to stop by Bien Hoa Military Cemetery. Despite prohibitions, he managed to get inside and took risks to record some short video clips of a mercilessly abandoned and intentionally destroyed and invaded cemetery. This sorrowful experience drove him to write an article, "*Whose Souls Are In The Wind?*" But not until ten years later did he have a chance to work on a documentary dedicated to all ARVN fallen soldiers.

It is an honor for Vietnam Film Club to recognize the valuable contribution of various members and guests to the making of this bi-lingual, 54-minute documentary, which is the final project of VFC's co-founder, Prof. Nguyen Ngoc Bich. Among the special guests that we would like to express our sincere gratitude to:

- *The Honorable Alan Lowenthal, U.S. Congressman*
- *Mr. Dan Southerland, Executive Editor, Radio Free Asia*
- *Mr. George J. Veith, Author of the book Black April*
- *Mr. Richard Botkin, Author of the book Ride The Thunder*
- *Mr. Fred Koster, Director of the documentary Ride The Thunder*

With this latest product, Vietnam Film Club wishes to send out a message: Bien Hoa Military Cemetery must be preserved, not only as a historic site but also as a reflection of the values of sympathy and humanity in Vietnam's culture, a traditional belief of Vietnamese people that those who are living should be cared for and those who died should be respected -- or to quote an old saying: "A House for the Living, A Grave for the Dead".

- Watch on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ahwb7gF5VPw>