

## **Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation**

To: Fellow Educators and Supporters

From: Dr. Marsha Guenzler-Stevens, Vice President of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation Board

Ms. Karen Zacharias, Board Member and Author of "*After the Flag has been Folded,*"  
And Gold Star Daughter

Re: Essay Contest for 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam Women's Memorial

Date: March 1, 2013

We are writing to invite you to share information about an upcoming essay contest in celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam Women's Memorial with your colleagues and students. As you will note in the enclosed material, this November 2013 the Vietnam Women's Memorial will celebrate a milestone event. In honor of this occasion, we are inviting students enrolled in U.S. high schools to engage in an interview and writing assignment that will result in an essay suitable to submission by the September 10, 2013 deadline. The winner of the contest will be invited to Washington D.C. for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration with his/her teacher and parent or guardian. Travel expenses (detailed in the accompanying material) will be provided by the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation.

As we wind down the war in Afghanistan and contemplate the Department of Defense's new initiative of women in combat, it is important to remember an earlier time when women served during the Vietnam War – often unnoticed in the public discourse. This assignment not only affords students and their teachers an opportunity to talk about this historical era, but it also allows discourse about women and women's role in this part of history.

We envision that this project will allow students and teachers to reach out into their communities – with particular attention to family members, Veterans Services Organizations, Assisted Living Centers, and even retired teachers and administrators who may have served during the Vietnam era. As the contest information details, essay authors are required to interview the subjects of their essays. We hope this link to a prior generation will help current students to appreciate and honor history and personal service.

We ask your assistance in getting this information out to principals, heads of school, and teachers so that they can integrate this assignment into their curriculum. We believe this is an exciting learning opportunity. Should you have any questions about this contest and/or the requirements, we invite you to write Dr. Marsha Guenzler-Stevens at her University of Maryland office at [mguenzle@umd.edu](mailto:mguenzle@umd.edu) and/or call her at 301-314-8505. Ms. Karen Zacharias can be contacted at [zachauthor@gmail.com](mailto:zachauthor@gmail.com). Given the time sensitive nature of this essay contest, we encourage you to forward this material with some haste. Thank you for helping us in this venture and in helping us to honor women who served.