



July 17, 2008

Stephen Maxner, Ph.D.
Director
The Vietnam Center
Texas Tech University
Box 41045
Lubbock, TX 79409-1045

Dear Dr. Maxner:

I write to congratulate you and your staff on the opening of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association (FVPPA) Collection. Your diligent work to record for posterity the story of the historic immigration of Vietnamese-Americans is to be commended.

As you know, many thousands of Vietnamese-Americans fled the tumultuous events in Vietnam to immigrate to the United States, where they began new lives and enriched the fabric of our great nation. Looking back, I am honored by the work so many of us have done to assist former prisoners and their families to immigrate to the United States.

I have fostered a close relationship with the Vietnamese-American community for many years. As Chairman of the Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs, I worked with Mrs. Khuc Minh Tho to help bring closure to many unresolved, and at times, painful, issues regarding the lasting legacy of the Vietnam War. In 1996, I passed legislation to compensate Vietnamese veterans and their descendants who were captured and incarcerated while participating in a military operation in Vietnam in 1964.

Having worked on these and other issues affecting Vietnamese-Americans, I appreciate your important efforts to protect and give voice to their inspiring history.

Congratulations again on your wonderful achievement.

Sincerely,

John F. Kerry
United States Senator