



2018-19 VIETNAM WAR ROUNDTABLE MNVietnam.org/roundtable

The Minnesota Military Museum, in partnership with Twin Cities Public Television and Concordia University, St Paul, present this 2018-19 series held at Concordia University on the 3rd Monday of month (September through May).

Parking and admission are free (a small donation to the museum is appreciated).

This new series is an opportunity for veterans (and those interested in the war and its legacy) to gather on a monthly basis to honor, remember and understand this tumultuous time.

Directions: Join us at the Concordia University's Buetow Auditorium on Hamline Avenue just south of Interstate 94. Concordia University, St Paul 300 Hamline Avenue North St Paul, MN 55104



mnvietnam.org



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September 17, 7PM • Expressions of War. A riveting evening of prose, poetry, and memoir by veteran members of the Madison-based Deadly Writers Patrol [DWP]. Doug Bradley (Vietnam 1970-71), Bruce Meredith (Vietnam 1970-71), and William Schuth (Iraq, 2004) will talk about DWP and share their stories and poetry, based on DWP's core beliefs that writing can be a mirror reflecting the deepest corners of our psyches; express the reality of suffering; explore the possibility of healing; enable problem solving; and achieve a deeper understanding of our common humanity.

October 15, 7PM • Native American Veterans and the Vietnam War. Native American veterans from around Minnesota and representing various branches of the military discuss their reasons for entering the military, their service in Vietnam and in other locations, their return home from the service, and life since Vietnam. They will also discuss attitudes toward veterans within their communities. Twin Cities Public Television will also preview their related documentary to premiere in November.

November 19, 7PM • Stories from Veteran Voices Award Recipients. The Veterans' Voices Award, annually hosted by the Minnesota Humanities Center, honors actively engaged former and current military service members in Minnesota who are making outstanding community contributions. Awardees are recognized in two categories, "On the Rise" (ages 40 and younger) and "Legacy" (ages 41 and older). The November Roundtable is their chance to personally share stories of their service.

December 17, 7PM • Marine Reconnaissance Units. Veterans of the 1st and 3rd Marine Reconnaissance Battalions will discuss how when and why they entered the Marines, how and why they were assigned to these elite units, their training and preparation for combat, and their small unit missions deep within enemy controlled territory. What were their experiences, options, and attitudes when the time came to reenter the civilian world?

January 21, 7PM • Navy Destroyer Operations off the coast of Vietnam in the South China Sea and in the wider Cold War in the Pacific. A Navy Chaplain, a sailor working below decks in the engine room, and a sailor manning one of the destroyer's guns and others will discuss their entry into the navy, their training and their service on destroyers. Topics will include day-to-day running of the ships and life on the ships, providing Naval gunfire support to ground troops during the Easter Offensive, supporting aircraft carrier operations, tracking Soviet submarines across the Pacific, and ministering to the spiritual needs of the crews of multiple ships. One sailor will discuss his experiences with a CBS News team that was imbedded on his ship and produced a documentary based on their time on the ship. Veterans will discuss their return to the civilian world and subsequent lives and attitudes.

February 18, 7PM • Vietnam War 360. Drawing upon speakers with very different experiences, the remarks by special guests - veteran, refugee, activist, conscientious objector, gold star family member - explore the war from many sides and expands on last year's Ken Burns and Lynn Novick Vietnam War documentary.

March 18, 7PM • Women Nurses in the Vietnam. Approximately nine thousand U.S. military nurses served in Vietnam during the U.S.-Vietnam war. Though women did not serve in combat, nurses encountered the consequences of war on a daily basis as they cared for its casualties -- military and civilian, American and Vietnamese. Like so many other Vietnam veterans, they struggled with their wartime experiences once they returned home. The fact that they were women veterans added another layer of difficulty to their readjustment, however. The assumption was that all veterans were men. In Minnesota, a handful of nurses who had served in Vietnam banded together as sister veterans and offered each other the help, support, and recognition that no one else had. Join Dr. Kim Heikkila for a discussion of nurses' experiences during and after the war, with a special focus on this unique group from Minnesota.

April 15, 7PM • Reporting on the War - Impact of the News Media. Don Shelby, a Vietnam War veteran who went on to become prominent news anchor in the Twin Cities, will reflect on his own experiences and take a broader look at the news media's impact on public opinion at home and the feelings of service men and women overseas.

May 20, 7PM • The Minnesota Connection to the Battle of Soui Tre. In 1966 a significant number of Minnesota men entered the army together, trained together, deployed to Vietnam together, were assigned together in units of the 25th and 4th Infantry Divisions, and found themselves fighting together in the bloody Battle of Soui Tre in March of 1967. The Fire Support Base at Soui Tre was commanded by then Lieutenant Colonel Jack Vessey, a Minnesotan, who received the nation's second highest award for valor at Soui Tre and went on to become the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the nation's highest ranking military officer during the Reagan Administration. Major General Rick Nash, the recently retired Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard, will give a brief overview of his extensive knowledge of General Vessey's leadership skills. Retired Army Chaplain Colonel John Morris will give an overview of the battle based on his research for the book he is writing on General Vessey, and numerous veterans of Soui Tre will discuss their varied participation in the battle.



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