

VIETNAM FREEDOM MARCH ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 2213, Saratoga, CA 95070 – Tel/Fax: (408) 904-4617
6433 Northanna Dr., Springfield, VA 22150 – Tel/Fax: (877) 592-4140
Email: VNFreedomMarch@vpac-usa.org

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VIETNAM FREEDOM MARCH: REMEMBERING THE PAST – SHAPING THE FUTURE APRIL 30, 2005 – WASHINGTON DC

April 30, 2005 marks the thirtieth year that the entire country of Vietnam has been under the repressive control of the Vietnamese Communist Party. In the last three decades the country has gone through numerous changes, but one thing has stayed the same: Vietnam remains an underdeveloped country lacking basic human freedoms.

In contrast, over the last 30 years, Vietnamese refugees of communism have rebuilt their lives and contributed to their adopted countries in diverse fields: business, science, arts, education, and even national defense. The empowerment of the Vietnamese community in America can be seen through its growing political voice. In many localities, Vietnamese American candidates have run for and won political office. Others have been appointed to important positions in government.

Over the last 30 years, the Socialist Republic Vietnam has been repeatedly censured by the international community for its restrictions on human rights and repression of peaceful voices. Many Congressional resolutions have addressed these abuses. Each year the State Department details how Vietnam lacks democracy, human rights, and religious freedoms. The attention paid to the conditions in Vietnam has come in no small part from the relentless advocacy of the Vietnamese American community.

An important symbol for Vietnamese everywhere is the Freedom and Heritage Flag. In the last year, over 50 states, cities, and municipalities in the US have recognized this enduring symbol. This achievement underscores the deep respect for freedom that is the heritage of Vietnamese Americans.

To mark the efforts to bring democracy and freedom to Vietnam through the last thirty years, the Vietnamese American Public Affairs Committee (VPAC), National Congress of Vietnamese Americans (NCVA), and Len Duong International Vietnamese Youth Network in conjunction with other Vietnamese organizations and communities will organize a **“Vietnam Freedom March: Remembering the Past – Shaping the Future”** in Washington, DC on April 30, 2005.

The daylong program will consist of a human rights rally before the US Capitol, remembrance ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Wall Memorial, outdoor concert featuring Vietnamese folk music, and special cultural activities and exhibitions on the history of the Vietnamese community in America.

Further details will be available in the near future. For additional information on this historic event, please email us at: VNFreedomMarch@vpac-usa.org.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee:

Binh Vo, Vietnamese American Public Affairs Committee
Hung Nguyen, National Congress of Vietnamese Americans
Huy Phan, Len Duong International Vietnamese Youth Network

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