

PRAIRIE MEMORIES

THE VIETNAM WAR YEARS

The Vietnam War defined a generation. It changed the lives of people who fought in it and who fought against it, leaving an indelible mark on millions of people. How has the Vietnam War made an impact on *your* life?

To document how this turbulent time shaped life in the prairie region, Prairie Public has begun *Prairie Memories The Vietnam War Years*, a year-long, region wide initiative aimed at inspiring Minnesotans and North Dakotans to remember and share stories, recognize bravery, honor those lost, express reasons for dissent, and foster understanding of the lasting impact of war.

Told through videotaped oral histories, this project will shine a light on the experiences of the many North Dakotans and Minnesotans whose lives were changed:

- The men and women who served in Southeast Asia
- The families who were left behind, caught in social conflict
- The people who protested and, in some cases, resisted the war
- The refugees who fled their war torn country to make a new home on the prairie

The oral histories will be illustrated by images, home movies, correspondence, and other documents by contributors from across the prairie region. In partnership with the State Historical Society of North Dakota, these pieces of history will be scanned and digitally preserved for the use of scholars, students, and the public to learn more about the legacy of this important time in our history.

Project Components

- Television and radio documentary airing on Prairie Public in November
- Video profiles created for Prairie Public's YouTube channel and Facebook
- Permanent exhibit of illustrated and transcribed full-length oral histories on the online Digital Horizons regional history archive
- Selected stories posted on The Story Wall as part of the Minnesota Remembers Initiative and WETA's Vietnam War Project



Prairie Memories The Vietnam War Years Partners

State Historical Society of North Dakota; North Dakota Humanities Council; Corporation for Public Broadcasting; Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund; WETA; Minnesota Public Television Association; Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County; The History Museum of East Ottertail County; Three Affiliated Tribes; North Dakota Veterans Home; and the Members of Prairie Public

Bank of America; Corporation for Public Broadcasting; PBS; David H. Koch; The Blavatnik Family Foundation; Park Foundation; The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations; The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; National Endowment for the Humanities; The Pew Charitable Trusts; Ford Foundation Just Films; Rockefeller Brothers Fund; and Members of The Better Angels Society

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in *Prairie Memories The Vietnam War Years* do not necessarily reflect those of the North Dakota Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

About the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

In 2008, Minnesota voters passed a landmark piece of legislation -- the Minnesota Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment-- which provided funding to public television stations serving audiences in Minnesota. Its mission is to help preserve and document the treasures of culture, history, and heritage that make Minnesota special, and to increase access to the natural and cultural resources we all share.

Coming In September

"The Vietnam War" is a 10 part, 18-hour documentary film series directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick airing on Prairie Public September 17-21 and September 24-28 at 7 pm CT. An immersive 360-degree narrative, the series tells the epic story of the Vietnam War as it has never before been told on film. "The Vietnam War" features testimony from nearly 80 witnesses, including many Americans who fought in the war and others who opposed it, as well as Vietnamese combatants and civilians from both the winning and losing sides.



Additional Resources

Vietnam Veterans of America
American Gold Star Mothers
Gold Star Wives of America
Vietnam Veterans Against The War
Veterans For Peace
Center on Conscience & War
Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota
National Center for PTSD
National League-POW MIA Families

www.vva.org

www.goldstarmoms.com

www.goldstarwives.org

www.vvaw.org

www.veteransforpeace.org

www.centeronconscience.org

www.vssmn.org

www.ptsd.va.gov

www.pow-miafamilies.org