

MN Remembers Vietnam and MSUM

This week I am promoting a new project at MSUM, MN Remembers Vietnam. Ms Shireen Alemadi, Assistant Director for Community Outreach and Engagement at the University coordinated an application to the MN Humanities Center and MSUM received a grant! Ms Alemadi and others attended a training session on how manage the grant. The news release is:

MSUM receives grant, named Minnesota Remembers Vietnam host community Moorhead, Minn., Dec. 5, 2017 — The war in Vietnam and Southeast Asia left an indelible mark on millions of people. In order to collect and preserve the stories of those affected by the war and its aftermath, the Minnesota Humanities Center has chosen six host communities to convene gatherings to honor the stories and experiences around the Vietnam War, including Minnesota State University Moorhead. As a recipient of a \$17,000 Minnesota Humanities Center grant, MSUM will begin hosting events and activities in March 2018, each intended to remember and recognize all affected by the war in Southeast Asia. MSUM host site events will include story gathering sessions, panel discussions and screenings, community meals, art creation and exhibitions, and musical and theatre productions—all deliberately focused on documenting the memories, stories and reflections of the millions affected by the war in Southeast Asia. Minnesota Remembers Vietnam is an initiative led by Twin Cities PBS aimed at inspiring Minnesotans to remember, share stories, recognized bravery, express their reasons for dissent, and foster understanding around the lasting impact of war. TPT is partnering with the Minnesota Humanities Center to bring public conversations around these topics to communities across the state, thanks to support from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund that was created with a vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

Twin Cities PBS has a website with video and audio stories about Vietnam. The main page video is of President Kennedy talking about Laos and “all we want is peace”. The speech is from March 23 1961. The link to the PBS site is <https://www.tpt.org/americas-secret-war/> A second website of interest is <https://www.mnvietnam.org/share-your-story/> where individuals are urged to share their stories. I plan on submitting my story about trying to find some hippies in San Francisco to discuss the War with me. I'll include it in an upcoming column.

The Minnesota History Center announced The 1968 Exhibit will return and be at the center from 23 December 2017 until 21 January 2019. Some of the 1968 events were the capture of the USS Pueblo, the Tet Offensive in Vietnam, the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr, and Robert Kennedy, the riots at the Democratic convention in Chicago, protests at the Mexico City Olympic Games and Nixon was elected US President. Of course, that is also the year I ended my US Air Force service and returned to college.