



National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day Celebration Committee 2005

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President, WI-Chapter Media Chair, Celebration Committee



July 2005

March 30, 2005

Alderman Joe Davis, SR.
City Of Milwaukee, City Hall, Room 205
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Alderman Davis, National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day

Per your request, I am following up on our phone call of last week with a letter requesting a meeting with you. My telephone conversation with you pertained to my request for some funding to help with the National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day Celebration this year, which is going to be held in Milwaukee. It's going to be a busy year for conventions in Milwaukee and we hope you see ours as being just as important as the others, for we also will bring several thousand people to the city.



July 2005

The National Lao-Hmong American Coalition Board of Directors recently met with Mayor Tom Barrett to discuss our financial needs for the National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day celebration, and also with Alderman Murphy. We have now been pointed in your direction.

On July 23, 2005 at Timmerman Airfield, thousands of Hmong people from all over the United States will join together to celebrate, what has been proclaimed by Governor James Doyle, and the governors of several other states, as National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day. We've attached a brief history of the Hmong people and their involvement with the CIA during the "secret war" in Laos at the time of the Vietnam War. Without the help of the Hmong people at that time, the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. would be at least three times as large as it is.

Funding for our event comes solely from private contributions, and we would like to avoid asking too much of our Hmong people: who as we're sure you know, work at jobs that don't pay much more than minimum wage, if that. And with the strong desire they have to attend this celebration, the cost of transportation will be a heavy enough burden for many. But they will come, for this is our day to be recognized and honored for our sacrifices to the United States government, and we will not miss it.

The average American does not know of our history, our culture, and our continued dedication to the United States of America: now, for example, our children are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, along side theirs. So, we look at this event as an opportunity to share our history and beautiful culture with people outside of our Hmong communities, and to add to the wonderful diversity within the beautiful city of Milwaukee.

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Therefore, Alderman Davis we write requesting a meeting with you to speak of city funding for our event. Our total budget for this celebration will run around \$45,000. Our hope is that after meeting with our Board of Directors, you would propose to the appropriate Committee, that some funding for this event be promised to us: perhaps as much as \$15,000.00. Hopefully, the contribution will be made because you and they understand the importance of this event to the Hmong people, and their importance in United States history.

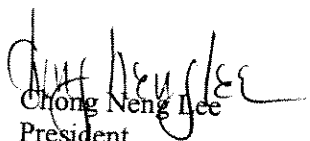
Milwaukee will be the focal point of this national celebration, with news coverage from around the country. And with our current supporters, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Elks, and the Northwest T-28 Pilots Association, and many more organizations, this national celebration in Milwaukee will be of a type unlike any national celebrations/conventions held in Milwaukee before. Our Air Salute for example consisting of over 25 air craft will fill the sky over Timmerman air field Saturday the 23rd of July. And we can promise you a ride in a T-28 fighter air craft from the CIA "secret war" in Laos. We can also introduce you to the CIA operatives who organized the Hmong people and quietly built the mountain air strips that saved so many American soldiers lives during the Vietnam, War. We are a people of great and important history, and we want to share that with Milwaukee and the surrounding areas on July 22nd and 23rd.

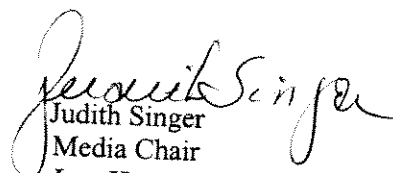
Our event will begin with a "Welcoming" in the rotunda with Mayor Barrett meeting our National President, on Friday July 22nd at 5PM. We offer you a special invitation.

Then on Saturday the 23rd, the day long activities begin with an opening ceremony, followed by our guest speakers, Hmong dancers, Hmong food and wares, and our the huge air salute, followed by a banquet that evening. The event is open to the public, and those outside of the Hmong community who attend will experience first hand the beauty, grace, and respect of the Hmong people.

We hope you are able to meet with our Board of Directors, to offer us the opportunity to express more clearly our need for financial assistance. Please contact our Media chair, Judith Singer, to set up an appointment that is convenient for you. We will be there.

Respectfully,


Chong Neng Lee
President
Lao-Hmong American Coalition,
Wisconsin Chapter


Judith Singer
Media Chair
Lao-Hmong American Coalition,
Wisconsin Chapter
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A Brief History of the Lao-Hmong American Allies During the Viet Nam War.

On March 27, 2001, the Honorable Congressman, Thomas Tancredo of Colorado, introduced House Concurrent Resolution 88 into the US House of Representatives to honor the United States' most staunch allies, the Hmong of Laos. The Resolution called for a "National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day" to recognize the supreme sacrifices of the Lao-Hmong people on behalf of the United States during the Vietnam War. It was unanimously passed by both the US House of Representatives on November 13, 2001 and the US Senate on December 10, 2001. They designated July 22nd of every year to celebrate the history, honor, and promise of the Lao-Hmong in their new homeland.

What most Americans do not know nor understand is that the Vietnam War was much wider than history denotes. In what is now known as the "Secret War" in Laos, the Lao-Hmong people fought along side United States Armed forces to stop the flow of communist North Vietnamese war materials through its' countryside and into Vietnam. They also fought daily land battles to stop the Pathet Lao communist movement from spreading throughout Southeast Asia. The Pathet Lao communists had allied with the communist North Vietnamese and were determined to brutally take control of Laos.

The Lao-Hmong Special Guerilla Unit (SGU) soldiers fought valiantly both in guerilla and conventional action along side the United States Armed Forces. They fought the Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese Army regulars under the watch full eye of the CIA and carried out the most dangerous of missions; to rescue downed US pilots, provide intelligence about enemy operations, guard US strategic installations, and to fight to maintain their homeland, villages, and culture. The Lao-Hmong pilots flew thousands of missions alongside the United States Air Force and Army. These Lao-Hmong pilots conducted thousands of deadly bombing raids on enemy positions to obstruct their supply lines and over half of these brave men were killed. And due to land battles, the Lao-Hmong SGU (Special Guerilla Units), some as young as ten years old near the end of the war, suffered casualties of over 35,000: lives lost in the defense of freedom and democracy. Proportionally, their causality rate was more then 100 times higher than that of the United States in Vietnam.

During the Vietnam conflict, Laos became the most bombed country in history. More bombs were dropped in Laos than were dropped in Europe and the Pacific in all of WWII. Fifteen hundred (1500) pounds of bombs were dropped for every man woman and child living in Laos. The indiscriminate damage done by both sides of this war on Lao-Hmong villages, human lives, animals, crops, and properties was extensive. Seeing the war as a loss, the United States withdrew from Laos in 1975 and the communists took over immediately: the Lao-Hmong people became victims of brutal and massive atrocities and persecutions. Several thousands of our faithful allies fled their chaotic country, while the United States expatriated only a small number to refugee camps in Thailand. From Thailand, some of succeeded in surviving the long, difficult path to their new home in America.

After decades of war, torn from their native land, and having left thousands behind, the Lao-Hmong in the United States, like European immigrants before them, struggled culturally and socially for many years to be able to now call America their home.

On July 22, 1995, twenty years after the United States pulled its forces from Southeast Asia, the first official United States recognition of the tremendous sacrifice of the Lao-Hmong was held in Golden, Colorado. On July 22nd, 2005, thirty years after the United States pulled out of Laos, we will celebrate their history as America's staunchest allies, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.