

View

BEATING THE ODDS, PROPELLING OUR NATION'S HEROES FORWARD

MAY 21ST, 2020

Forty-five years ago, on April 30, 1975, the Vietnam War was brought to a very bitter end as Communist North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces captured the South Vietnamese capital of Saigon and forced South Vietnam to surrender.

After the United States began to withdraw support, South Vietnam was left in a weakened position and unable to defend themselves against North Vietnam. But in the weeks prior to Saigon's fall, the U.S. had begun efforts to evacuate Americans and South Vietnamese orphans and refugees from Saigon. On April 29 and 30, the U.S. made a frenetic last attempt to rescue all remaining Americans and as many

Vietnamese as possible via helicopter from the U.S. Embassy. However, thousands of South Vietnamese desperate to escape were left stranded outside the embassy.

This was a tough mission, to say the least. The conditions were deplorable. The orders were impossible. Our men lost leaders, battle buddies, and witnessed unspeakable acts. The anti-war protests on the U.S. home front were impassioned and consuming, and our veterans did not receive a warm welcome home.

Today, we honor all our veterans and endeavor to understand the conditions they face and the sacrifices they made. We can never make up for the way our Vietnam veterans were treated upon their return, but today, and every day, we can honor our Vietnam veterans for their service, their

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- x Visit booths of multiple Veteran Service Providers
- x Presentation of the Colors Ceremony by the 184th ARN
- x Free Breakfast Burritos from Bomb BBQ
- x Free refreshments from Fairmount Coffee
- x RARN

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The Veterans' View

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Veterans Upward Bound at Wichita State University

Brennan Hall I, Campus Box 0137

Phone: (316) 978-6742 | Fax: (316) 978-3676

Email: Veterans.UpwardBound@Wichita.edu

Website: www.Wichita.edu/VUB

Editor: Julie Sanders

VUB Staff:

Stacia Lyday, Executive Director

Sheri Daniel-Washington, Office Manager

Julie Sanders, Program Specialist



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KANSAS CITY, MO 64106

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