



JOHN MCCAIN
UNITED STATES SENATOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 28, 2008

Dear Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association:


It is with great pleasure that I write to welcome those attending the opening ceremony of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association Collection at Texas Tech University.

I have a connection with the Vietnamese-American community dating back many years. Throughout this time, I have met many remarkable individuals who have dedicated their lives to serving this community, including Ms. Khuc Minh Tho, who is in attendance today. I am honored to have the opportunity to work with so many of you over the years to achieve our common goals of preserving fundamental human rights.

We all know of the tragedies that ensued after the conflict in Vietnam, and all of us are aware of the thousands of Vietnamese who were forced into re-education camps, separating them from their family members. The United States has a special obligation to those Vietnamese persecuted for their association with the United States and the cause for which we fought. These Vietnamese certainly deserved, at the very least, the benefit of a consistent, compassionate admission policy for themselves and their families. This is why in 1996 I worked to pass legislation that would allow the children of these prisoners to reunite with their parents who had emigrated to the United States. Such an understanding and commitment to reuniting these families was a crucial step in the continued development of U.S.-Vietnamese relations.

I thank all of you your continued efforts as part of the Vietnamese-American community, and thank those involved with the FVPPA who are being honored here today.

Sincerely,



John McCain
U.S. Senator