

# MINNESOTA REMEMBERS VIETNAM

TWIN CITIES PBS

The Vietnam War was the most divisive conflict in American history since the Civil War – and was too often expressed as a division between veterans and non-veterans. In Minnesota and across the nation, many veterans were shamed upon their return from Vietnam. Even 50 years later, there are still open wounds that require healing. But it is only by hearing each other's stories that we can truly gain deeper understanding about the Vietnam War, its impact on an entire generation, and its lessons for today.



**The station's yearlong, statewide effort will ignite Minnesotans to remember stories, recognize bravery, clarify dissent, and foster understanding around the lasting impact of war.**

Twin Cities Public Television has already begun to invest resources in the MINNESOTA REMEMBERS VIETNAM Project. The apex for the project will be in September 2017, when public television stations nationwide will air "The Vietnam War," a major new documentary by Ken Burns. The 18-hour long film will be a national event that is certain to reopen discussion and debate about the costs of war and the experiences of those who serve. **TPT will complement the PBS documentary with a rich collection of multimedia content that is estimated to reach over 1,000,000 Minnesotans via speaker, stage and screen.**

- **Digital Story Wall:** *Invites sharing and exploration of personal videos, narratives, and photos shared by Minnesotans who fought in Vietnam and those whose lives it changed at home*
- **Community Engagement & Capitol Event:** *Series of events that extends impact through leveraging this powerful content - including a culminating event honoring Veterans and their families at the State Capitol*
- **"The Secret War:"** *Documentary on Hmong involvement in The Secret War and life in the U.S.*
- **"The Telling Project:"** *Documents the making of a theatrical performance of veteran stories*
- **Veteran Video Series:** *Powerful video portraits of MN Vietnam veterans... in their own words*

There are over 100,000 Vietnam-Era veterans living in Minnesota today. Each one of them carries within him or herself a unique story. Stories are an integral part of our fabric as human beings, making us who we are. Sharing wisdom offers inspiration to others. Sharing may be a way of honoring our service men and women. For many, sharing may be a painful act of bravery or atonement, and perhaps a rich source of healing. MINNESOTA REMEMBERS VIETNAM will result in the creation of a vast trove of content that can be used by educators and organizers across the state to continue dialogue and learn from those who experienced the war firsthand for years to come.

The Vietnam War defined a generation. It changed the lives of people who fought in it and who fought against it. ***It's time to remember, honor and understand.***

