

International Khmer Assembly

Scott Walker, Executive Director

My name is Scott Walker I am the Executive Director of the International Khmer Assembly.

I am here today to advocate for the passage of HF 2629 a memorial resolution recognizing the roll the Khmer Veterans played in supporting U.S. Forces and defending freedom and democracy in Southeast Asia.

Our organization is in the process of recording oral history of the Khmer people including veteran accounts of the conflict in Southeast Asia especially Cambodia.

In the corse of this effort it became evident that the Khmer Veteran had deep desire to be recognized by the United States for their roll there. To my amazement I found that no legislative body or federal agency had ever recognized them and thier heroic contribution.

The stories we were recording were some of the most horrific and touching stories I personally have ever heard. The commitment to freedom and democracy of the Khmer is as strong today as it was in the 1960's and 70's.

They continue to serve the United States by organizing and attending United States National Defense Corp meetings contributing to the war on terrorism.

However the Khmer do not participate in Memorial Day events or other holidays we Americans hold dear to us. The reason is because they still see themselves as refugees not true Americans. They have not been recognized and they feel it would be an imposition if they were to participate with out invitation.

Your recognition of their roll gives them permission as they see to become full American Citizens and participate in the events that all Americans celebrate and commemorate.

Please support our American bothers and sisters by passing this resolution.

International Khmer Assembly
Khmer Veterans Project

Houen Hach
Minnesota House of Representatives Veteran Affairs Committee.
March 5, 2012

My name is Houen Hach, I am the Chairman of the International Khmer Assembly based in Saint Paul, Minnesota. I am also the Director of the Khmer Veterans Project who's mission is to record oral history of Khmer Veterans experiences in Cambodia during the Vietnam conflict.

I am a son of a Khmer soldier and a survivor of the Killing Fields of the Khmer Rouge.

I am here today to encourage you to support House File 2629 recognizing the roll the Khmer Freedom Fighter played in supporting U.S. forces and defending freedom and democracy in Southeast Asia.

During the past 2 months our project has recorded the oral history of over 40 Khmer Veterans in Minnesota. They have recorded experiences of their training by U.S. military and the battles they engaged in with those U.S. forces.

To date these Khmer veterans have been living in the shadows of history fearful of other Khmer and communists who might expose them for their actions or do harm to their families. They continue to defend the United States by holding secrets they have sworn to keep. They have yet to experience what it is to be a true American. This resolution begins to restore the freedoms they have fought and died for, most importantly the freedom from fear.

Universally their desire is to obtain recognition from the United States before they pass into history unnoticed. To date no legislative body in the United States has recognized them.

While it is widely known of the Secret war fought in Laos by the brave forces of the Hmong there was yet a more secret war hidden from the world in Cambodia.

As recorded in James Donahue's two books "Blackjack 33 and 34" and recorded in the book "The Rustics", *A Top Secret Air War in Cambodia*, it is clear the United States and its brothers in arms the Khmer Freedom fighter were engaging enemy Vietnamese Communists and rescuing U.S. personnel in Cambodia from as early as 1966 if not sooner.

I am accompanied by 33 Khmers who are here to answer questions and advocate for their fallen brothers and those who have died without receiving such recognition.

Please support this resolution.

International Khmer Assembly

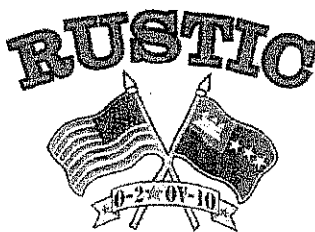
Attendee list. Minnesota State House, March 5th, 2012

2nd Brigade Minnesota, 9th Khmer Division

Major	Seang Eang Meas
Major	Samol Khuth
1st. Lt.	Chantha Vong
Major	Ngam Touy
WO5	Sinuon Sang
Captain	Hoeun Jeff Sous
WO4	Liang Nit "John"
Major	Ream Um
Captain	Sotheary Doung
WO5	Vantha Var
2nd Lt.	Kornthea Ouk
WO3	Saran Pen
Captain	Sameun Hon
1st Lt.	Felicia C. Ouk
2nd Lt.	Serey Sok
Captain	Chhim Ouk
	Ry "Steven" Chan

Rochester, Minnesota "Mike Force" members

Saman Rouen
Lam Yem
Chandara Khieu
Pheap Ngok
Chav Ron
Vincenti Ngor
Miko Thach
Noch Veng
David Chhem
Richard Dos
Sophon Khun
Tierrak J. May



Minnesota House of Representatives
Minnesota Senate
Veteran Affairs Committee

Mar 2, 2012

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Rustic Forward Air Controller (FAC) Association to encourage you to support the resolution to recognize the Khmer Freedom Fighters for the critical support they provided U.S. military personnel during the Southeast Asia conflict.

When Cambodia came to the aid of our country in June 1970 and permitted U.S. forces to enter Cambodia for the first time, the Rustic FACs were some of the first American airmen to respond. From June 1970 to the end of the Southeast Asia conflict on August 15, 1973, the Rustics provided continuous close air support to the Khmer Freedom fighters who fought gallantly to stem the tide of communist aggression by NVA and Khmer Rouge forces.

During this period the Rustics patrolled vast regions of Cambodia and worked daily with the many Cambodian Army ground units that were often under vicious attack from superior enemy forces. Many tense battles ensued and a number of Rustic aircrews were shot down. In every case, the Khmer Freedom Fighters fought tenaciously to recover or rescue every downed American airman. As a result, not one Rustic was ever captured by the enemy--all were either rescued or recovered--for which we are eternally grateful.

Every two years when the Rustics hold their reunions, we set aside time to solemnly remember our fallen brethren and the many Cambodian Freedom Fighters who gave their lives in defense of their country and while aiding downed American airmen. They willingly sacrificed themselves to save others.

Unfortunately, few Americans are aware of the role Cambodia played in the Southeast Asia war and the sacrifices made by the Khmer Freedom Fighter. In response, the Rustics have recently published a 488 page book, "The Rustics--A Top Secret Air War In Cambodia," which tells the whole story from our front row seat over the battlefields of Cambodia.

Our only regret is that more Khmer Freedom Fighters did not survive the aftermath of the war. Surely we can do the right thing now to honor their sacrifice. Please support the resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Claude G. Newland".

Claude G. Newland, USAF, Lt. Col. Ret., Rustic 19
President, Rustic FAC Association
4033 Indian Trail
Destin, FL 32541

From: Hoeun Hach <bonh@hotmail.com>
To: Sinoun Sang
Date: February 7, 2012 5:44:37 AM CST
Cc: Scott Walker <callwalker@gmail.com>, Maly You <malyyou@yahoo.com>, Setra K <ksites@msn.com>

1 Attachment, 45 KB

I talked to him last night about the recognition. I revised this morning. How does it sound?
Hoeun Hach



Sinoun Sang

I was born and raised in Kendal Province on Jan 5, 1950, Cambodia. When I 16 years old, I moved to Phnom Penh. I finished high school, I got a job as a mechanist. I married in 1972. At the same time, the war was fiercely raging toward the City of Phnom Penh. I joined government army under Deputy Colonel Thach Chea to patrol protecting the city and Lon Non's barrack (brother of Lon Nol). As the battles were drawn closer to the capital, I was sent to the front line at Prey Sar for one week to hold the advancing Khmer Rouge militias. After one week at the front line, I came back to resume patrolling Phnom Penh City and Lon Non's barrack again until Khmer Rouge overrun the country on April 17th, 1975.

The war was over. The unexpect happened; the Khmer Rouges ordered to empty cities. My family and I walked toward Battambang Province. I learned quickly that the Khmer Rouge would systematically exterminate the former soldiers. I threw away the military uniform and destroyed any identity related to Lon Nol- US government. Like millions of Khmer people during the Khmer Rouge's brutal regime, my two children were starved to death; the famine was every corner of the country.

The Vietnamese launched a major invasion and occupied Cambodia in January 7th, 1979 till today. The Khmer Roug soldiers were overwhelmed and rapidly colapsed as an avalanch. My family and I escape Cambodia while the Khmer Roug troops were chaotically retreated. We reached Refugee Camps in Thailand. May 1980, we left Thailand for Philippines, we stayed there for four months. October 1980, We arrived in the US.

I did not finish my army business in Cambodia. I am is still in love with uniform. On January 10, 2010, I joined United States National Defense Corps again in Minnesota. The uniform brings back the memory when I wore them in the US-back Lon Nol government. I am beyond joy to hear Senator Mike Parry is working toward a Resolution to recognize Khmer contribution assisting to US war effort. This is a very important milestone for Cambodia and its poeple. Senator Mike Parry is aware of Lon Lon government was backed by the United States; he cares about this alliance. Finally, Khmer effort in helping US did not go away in vain. I genuinely appreciate Scott Walker who cares and initiates the whole process.

Sinoun Sang's mini bio
Recorded by Hoeun Hach



Serey Sok

I was born and raised in Kandal Province, Cambodia on May 5, 1957. I am a son of a career soldier. I attended elementary school in Bak Touk Elementary school through junior high school. My father's name was Keo Sok, my mother's Penn Saroun. My father was an Infantry Official; my mother worked as a school teacher. I am the oldest child and I have four other siblings; their names: Sarean, girl; Vantha, boy; Sarom girl; and Srey Nath, girl. Vantha died in Khmer Rouge time from starvation and perhaps from partrified fear.

In 1970, my father was transferred from Phnom Penh to Battambang. I moved as father was assigned to move. From childhood, my life had been exposed to military; it influenced my life heavily. I watched soldiers march, I emulated them, practiced, and I was deeply in love with the uniform. At age of 12, I volunteered to work as a mail carrier from one fort to another. At age of 13, I was sent to train military strategies by American military experts in Thailand for 18 months. I came back from Thailand at the age of 14 (1971), I joined Khmer Republic Army. My first battle was Phnom Trong Bath at Battambang-Siam Ream border against the communists. My fierce battles were at Chak in 1972 (High Way 5 to Pusat), Bung Khna, and O Ta Boung. In 1974, fierce battles in Phnom Som Pov (High Way 10 connecting Battambang to Palin). I fought battle of Odom Bang (a little east of City of Battambang) until the fall.

April 17, 1975, Khmer Rouge marched into Phnom Penh at 9AM. My unit still fought on until noon. There was repeated radio broadcast and a helicopter hovering over the City of Battambang pronouncing that the "war was over." We were asked to lie down weapons. We did so as told; totally unaware of what happened next. As soon as we lied down weapons, we were separated immediately from civilians. While we were separated from civilians, we were separated again by ranks. The fear set in. The high rank militaries were loaded into trucks to be murdered at night. My father and I were together, we were depressed and in fear. A few days later, we were sent to Kok Trom and we were dumped into no-man-land in a desolated area. We now faced hunger, exhaustion, and fear. My father and my third brother, Vantha, were separated again; the two of them were sent away to an unknown place. Vantha saw his father's hands were being tied to his back and dragged to be killed. He was beyond shocked, extremely depressed, and in fear. Vantha came from that unknown place back to Kok Trom and told me the bad news. Soon I was partrified fear, helpless, and depressed as well. Vantha did not feel well since my father was killed and later died from exhaustion and hunger. At Kok Trom, too, I saw a group of young Khmer Rouge soldiers with AK-47 and ropes came toward me at noon. I was paralyzed and numbed from head to toes. They passed my hut. As soon as they passed my hut, they called out the former soldiers to come down. They came down as

called. While they were down, each former soldier's hands were tied to the back, blindfolded, and walked toward a tree. These hapless men were killed that afternoon.

The reign of terror was over when the communist Vietnam launched a major invasion into Cambodia in late December 1978. It took less than two weeks the communist Vietnam took over country and set up Hun Sen government right away. The Vietnamese declared victory January 7, 1979. The Khmer Rougs faced an ultimate defeat. While the Khmer Roug soldiers were facing off the communist Vietnamese troops, things were chaos and we were looking for family members. Five months later, we were united and we esaped from Cambodia to Thailand.

We reached Cambodian-Thai border; stayed at border with thousands of Khmers. We were not yet safe. The Khmer Rougs shelled to unarmed civilians in the camps, the communist Vietnamese attacked defenseless unarmed civilians day and night, the Thai army also shelled into the unarmed refugee camps indiscrimately. Khmer people were caught in the middle. Scores and scores innocent children and women were killed. My family and I stayed in the Refugee Camps more than 10 years along Cambodia-Thai border. From 1990 to 1995, my family and I were moved to UN supervised Refugee Camps inside Thai territory. We were very much safe if compared to life in communists and life along the Cambodia-Thai border where bombs flew from sky at will to fallt and kill on innocent civilians.

On May 28, 1995, my family and I came to America--the country that I was longing for. I am now physically living in the free country. It reminds me all the time when I was military trained by Americans in Thailand and my father used to work for Americans back in Cambodia. If my father knew that I am now in America, he may be so happy that he could only imagine. As soon as I arrived in Minnesota, I immediately attended English as Second Language (ESL). I am speaking English okay. I am working now at Tilsner Carton Company. I am an American citizen as well.

With the love of America and Freedom, I am joining United States National Defense Corps (USNDC) to protect Freedom and Democracy. I am under to protact my adopted country and its constitution. I'm so happy to be free and part of American Dream.

I am also pleased to join with International Khmer Assembly (IKA). The IKA members are working to gain recognition from American government to recognize Khmers who used to help Americans during the Vietnam War. The recognition is so crucial for me, my father, and other Khmers who were an alliance with US to fight for Freedom in Cambodia. I am a living proof of the alliance and I am willing to testify to anyone who wants evidence.

Best Regard
Serey Sok



Son Ngoc Pheap

I was born and raised in Kampuchea Krom in Preah Tro Peang Province (Tra-vinh in Vietnam) on 6/ 5/ 1951. Thach Ren was my uncle. Khmers in Khmer Krom were silently oppressed by Vietnam. I manage to I finished high school. I left home to join Khmer Serie in 1969. I was trained by US Mike Force in Long Hai.

With military knowledge, in 1971, I was sent to Cambodia to train Khmer Special Forces in Cambdia. There were White Scarf units were asked to help Lon Nol. There were 300,000 well-trained Mike Force men came to face off communist Vietnam. In 1973-4, I was sent to Kampong Chhanang to train new Khmer recruiters. In 1974-5, I was assigned to guard Long Borat and Serie Montak; there were 124 men to protect these high two officials. These Khmer Krom soldiers were highly determined to fight against the communist Vietnam. While these Khmer Krom soldiers were highly committed to fight along side with US troops, US pulled out from the war. Khmer Krom soldiers were in limbo. It was like a new car without gas. As soon as the US pulled out, the frontlines collapsed and communist troops were closing-in to capture the Khmer nation capital.

On April 17, 1975, the communists triumphantly marched through the City of Phnom Penh while all Khmer Krom units were in panic, disarrayed, and fear. Khmer Krom soldiers dispersed and splited quickly. I went back home at Tra-vinh. I was arrested by communist Vietnam immediately accused me a Khmer Serie person and I was in jail for a year. Khmer Krom civilians supported and talked out with Vietnam authority to release me. I was released and I went farming; later I escaped. In 1986, I arrived in the US. I do not a single word of English. I worked with a little English for 20 years. I'm now liad off.

I am join in United States National Defense Corps (USNDC). I'd like to reconnect the old alliance with the US and Khmers that used to have. Also I am so happy to join with International Khmer Assembly (IKA). The IKA members is working to gain recognition from the United States to recognize Khmer efforts during the Vietnam Warh. Khmers sacrificed a lot, but it went unnoticed to the world. As it is today, the history is being made, Khmers will come out of the shadow to enjoy the Freedom like any one else and to participate in Democracy. Khmers now have a chance to voice their concerns and be able to speak for their brothers and sisters back home. I am so grateful about the opportunity to have Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

Best Regard
Son Ngoc Pheap



CAPTAIN CHHIM OUK

I was born and raised in Cambodia near Phnom Penh. My father's name was Sa Eam Ouk, my mother's name was Eurl Yos. I have 6 other siblings : Somsabath (boy), Sombo (girl), Somoeun (girl), Chhoun (boy) me, John (boy), and Sok Khong(girl). I'm the fourth child. My father was wiseman in a Buddhist temple, my mother was a house wife. My parents moved to Svay Rieng and I finished high school in 1961. After high school, I joined a booth camp, it was supervised by Capt Sao Somath. Later I was introduced to Col. Puth Boul, Police Department in 1963.

I was transferred to a military compound in Battambang in 1964. I worked as under cover there. October 1964, I got married to a Khmer lady, Lang In. After marriage, I and my wife moved back to Phnom Penh. From 1961 to April 17, 1975, I was working directly under General Lon Nol as a secret agent.

When the communist took over the country in April 17, 1975, people were forced to exacuated out cities to labor camp in the countryside. I was separated from my wife and children. The trumatic events remain lingering until today.

A full scale Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia in late December of 1978. They took full control on January 7th, 1979. My family and I were reunified. To justify the invasion of Cambodia, the Vietnam announced to the world that they came to "rescue" Cambodian people. In mid 1979, I joined the Khmer Liberation Freedom Fighters (Khmer Serei) along the Thai-Cambodian border along with Khmer men to protect defenseless Cambodian refugees from Vietnamese ruthless attack. I helped Khmers to get proper documents and to register to receive food ration at a UN's control Refugee Camp called Khao I Dang inside Thai territory. November, 1979 he and his family to get to Khao I Dang as well. At Khao I Dang, I continued to work closely with UN staff, International Red Cross, and USCC to help process applications to resettle Khmers at "third countries."

December 19, 1981, my family and I arrived in the Land of thr Free, United States of America. Lou Pov was my sponsor. He and his wife helped resettle and readjust my family America; help his children bring to see doctors, enroll in school, and to ELS class for me. My goals were primarily to get higher education by learning English, computer, and ready to assimilate to new culture.

I am now a senior citizen, I still gets involved with United States National Defense Corps (USNDC). With UANDC, I am able to reconnect an old alliaice that I amstil loyal it. It is my way to say thank you to my families and other Khmers to resettle in the Land of the Free with equal protection under law. Again, I am grateful to America.

Truly, Chhim Ouk



Hoeun

I was born and raised in Svay Rieng district, Svay Rieng Province, Cambodia on July 7, 1947. I attended and finished high school in Svay Rieng Province. I joined Khmer Army on 5/15/1965. I was sent to Pursat Province to train military strategy on 10/20/1965, battalion 13. After training, the entire battalion was sent to Odor Mean Chey to subdue a Khmer Militia along Thai-Khmer border. The governor was injured at the frontline I retreated and brought him back to Phnom Penh. In 1966, I was sent Kampong Chhnang and my whole unit was given name as "Intervention Force". In 1967, I was sent to Prey Svay, Battambang.

After March 18, 1970, Khmer Rouges and communist Vietnamese troops were stronger and stronger. They attacked Khmer Republic Army frequently in the broad day light. I fought against Communist Vietnam more frequently in Siam Reap and Ho Chi Minh Trail. Late 1971, my battalion was sent to fight communist Vietnamese troops along Mekong River from Neak Loeung to Khmer-Vietnam border to open water way. The water way was open. My battalion was brought back to Phnom Penh to face off enemies at Lovear Am. My battalion was assisted by other 5 units. I was injured and brought treat at a military hospital, code 401, for 2 weeks in Phnom Penh. After the recovery, I was sent to Sala # 5. The entire battalion was transported by a big ship escorted by many gun boats. We were trapped inside enemy lines. American B-52s were called to help. We truly were committed to fight along side Americans against the communists. While we were committed to be with American friend, American troops pulled out. As soon as Americans pulled out, Khmer Rouges took over the country in April 17, 1975.

The former soldiers were told to lie down weapons because the "war was over." We did as we were told; absolutely unaware of what happened next. The former soldiers were separated from civilians and murdered quickly. Only a few knew about the mass murder. I was sent to labor camp at the rice field. I worked so hard just to save my life and to be able to tell the world of what happened.

Late December of 1978, the communist Vietnamese troops launched a full scale invasion into Cambodia. The Khmer Roug soldiers were overwhelmed and retreated rapidly. The communist Vietnam declared victory on January 7, 1979 and quickly set up a puppet government till today. The Khmer Rougs faced an ultimate defeat. Thousands and thousands of Khmer civilians poured into Cambodia-Thai border escaping the madness and the Vietnamese invasion. Khmer civilians reached to the border were not yet safe. The Thai paramilitary shelled into camps, the communist Vietnamese troops targeted these unarmed civilians, remnant Khmer Roughs attacked any time, the bandits robbed, raped, and killed. The people were unprotected and vulnerable to be attacked and killed. Khmers were safe when reached Khao I Dang Refugee Camp-the only camp was controlled by UN. Even in the UN supervised camp was not totally safe, the



Hoeun

UN staff were in charge in day time, the bandits were in charge at night. The UN brought a smile and hope to Khmers in the morning; the bandits brought fear at night. None of crimes was reported to UN.

I stayed in the Refugee Camps almost a year. On 11/11/81, my family with my 4 kids, and I came to Minnesota. I did not speak English. I went to English as Second Language (ESL) class for 6 months. I have been working to support my family. Later I have another son born in America, the Land of the Free. My youngest son does not know anything about Cambodia, its secret alliance with US, and my military life in Cambodia that I fought with Americans for Freedom and Democracy in Cambodia.

I am now joining United States National Defense Corps (USNDC). This is my special bond to America. I fought with American forces in Cambodia for the Freedom and Democracy for the people of Cambodia. Back then, I never thought I would come to live on my friend's land, but my dear friend brought me to live to his land. I recommit myself to protect this land the same way I protect the land of my birth. I am under Oath to protect America and its constitution.

I am joining International Khmer Assembly (IKA). The IKA members work to gain recognition from the US government for Khmer efforts helping American troops to fight for Freedom and Democracy in Cambodia. It is my personal happiness to see my contribution to be counted and recognized. It is so meaningful to me and the Khmer Republic. I wait for this moment for a long time. I strongly believe other Khmers are happy as well.

Best Regard
Hoeun Jeff Suos



Saron Pen

I was born and raised in Prey Thnong in Svay Rieng Province, Cambodia on 4 / 7 / 1946. I finished high school. The war was imminent spreading to Cambodia from Vietnam. Viet Cong and communist Vietnamese were already in Cambodia taking refuge from American bombing. The Viet Cong and communist Vietnamese also blended with Khmer people, so Americans having difficulty to go after the communist Vietnam. I joined Khmer Army in 1968 to defend Cambodia. My military ID # was 58496. My unit was well-trained for 12 months as Parachut Unit jumping from fighting jets. In 1969, my unit was sent to Long Vake. In 1970, my unit was sent to face off communist Vietnamese troops. My Unit captured Viet Cong 1 battalion. We did not kill them; we sent them back to Vietnam. As soon as they got to Vietnam, they put uniform, and they came back to inflict Cambodia. The same year, my unit was sent to Takeo Province to liberate villages: Tram Khna, Chum Bok, Som Rong, and Ang Tasom from Vietnam's control. My Parachut Unit was sent to Siam Reap to liberate an airport, a Buddhist Temple, and a high school. In 1971, my Parachut Unit was professionally trained by US Army for 3 months in Kampuchea Krom (Dong Bathin, S. Vietnam). After training, my unit was sent back to Cambodia to the frontline at Pich Nil, South of Phnom Penh. My unit was sent back to Siam Reap to liberate Ankor Wat and Bantay Pook. In 1972, my unit fought against Communist Vietnam on High Way 1 at the battles of: Nak Leung, Kokee Som, Di Ith, Ka-arm Som Nor, Koh Kro Bey, and Anlong Ron. In 1973, my unit was sent to Kompong Cham to liberate a market place, hospital, Prey Kub, Arey Kasad, Wat Sleng, Kantut, and Phnom Brasit.

Khmer Republic soldiers were loyal to alliance with American fighting communism with Americans to the end. While the disease of communism was highly attacking Cambodians, American troops were pulled out. Cambodia was left on its own to defend itself. On April 17th, 1975, Cambodia fell. The nation of Cambodia plunged into a Stone Age; people were abysmally mistreated and millions of them were murdered. I lived in fear every single day.

Late December 1978, Vietnamese launched a full scale invasion to Cambodia. On Jan 7th, 1979, the Vietnamese invaders declared victory. The Khmer Rouges faced an ultimate defeat. My family and I had a chance to escape to Thailand. We reached to a UN's controlled camp called Khao I Dang. On 4 / 27 / 1981, my family and I arrived in the Rhode Island with four children (ages 7,5, 3, 1). I did not speak a single of English. Speaking English was bad enough, let alone finding a job. I left Rhode Island to Minnesota in 1992. The main goal coming to Minnesota was to find a job. Within one week, I got a job as a janitor at an elementary school. With stable job, I asked my wife and my four children to come to Minnesota as well. My wife stayed only year, she decided to go back to Rhode Island with my four children in 1996. She asked me to go

back, but I did not go because I got the in Minnesota. My wife and I agreed to divorce; we got it done in 1997. I agreed to pay child support. In 1998, I have a girlfriend and I have twin daughters. Things did not go good as well. My girlfriend and I agreed to live separately. Again, I agreed to pay child support. Now I am living alone. I am joining the United States National Defense Corps (USNDC). The USNDC just reconnects old root of memory when Khmer Republic and US were alliance; Khmers were committed to that alliance. With the new alliance, US Army trained me and other Khmers in person to fight for Freedom, Democracy and to protect Cambodia. Many Khmers, myself included, had done exactly what we were trained to be. Khmers trusted, Americans pulled, and Khmers paid price dearly.

Meeting IKA members is to have a sense of trust. The IKA members are working tirelessly to contact MN State Senators drafting a solution to recognize Khmer efforts in helping America during the Vietnam War. To gain recognition from the US government is so meaningful me personally and for the nation of Cambodia. Finally the world understands the truth--Cambodia and the US were alliance to fight preserve the same goals: Freedom and Democracy. I am grateful America.

