

- See today's Digital Edition
- Subscribe to email newsletter
- Subscriber Services



-4°C
A few clouds
Detailed Forecast

Ottawa Citizen Home

Search for

in the Ottawa Citizen

Sunday, March 2, 2008

go! LOCAL BUSINESSSES



Digital Products

- go!LOCAL Ottawa **New!**
- See today's Digital Edition
- Subscribe to email newsletter
- Ottawa RushHour
- Ottawa GameDay

Inside the Ottawa Citizen

- News
- Lotteries
- Opinion
- News Briefs
- Letters
- The Citizen's Weekly
- The Citizen's Weekly Arts & Books
- Sports
- Sports Briefs
- Technology
- Columnists

- 30 days Archive
- Headlines Scan
- Newspaper Ads
- Special Sections

Views of Ottawa

- Editorials
- Opinion
- Letters
- All Views of Ottawa

Weekly Sections

- Food
- Style Weekly
- Homes
- Travel & Leisure
- Automotive
- Working
- Style Weekly Television
- Observer
- Citizen's Weekly

Features

- Ottawa RushHour

Tet offensive still a wound for Vietnamese

The Ottawa Citizen
Published: Sunday, March 02, 2008

Re: The 'Vietnam Syndrome', Feb. 3.
Among all western journalists who have written about the Vietnam War, columnist David Warren stands out as one of the most knowledgeable and consistent writers. Thanks to his writings, many people were able to get a lucid and balanced view of this war, in which an estimated three million Vietnamese on both sides (non-Communist South and Communist North), both civilians and soldiers, lost their lives together with 58,000 U.S. troops.

Early this month, Vietnamese all over the world celebrated the arrival of the lunar New Year. On this occasion, we couldn't help but think of the 5,000 people, including many women and children, who were murdered and buried, many alive, in mass graves by the Communist troops in the old capital city of Hue in Central Vietnam.

In the early hours of Jan. 31, 1968, the Vietnamese New Year day, the Communists broke a normal Tet truce and mounted a massive attack throughout South Vietnam in a campaign called "general offensive -- general revolt" involving 70,000 troops. The "general offensive" did take place but the "general revolt" by the population against the South Vietnamese government that they expected to follow never materialized. After less than one

month of counter-attack, South Vietnamese troops, with the help of their U.S. allies, recaptured all of the cities overtaken by the Communists.

The year 1968 turned out to be the turning point in the war since, due to the ever pessimistic reports by the U.S. media, the anti-war movement at home, and its mounting costs, the Americans lost their will to protect South Vietnam, touted as the "front-line outpost of the Free World" by successive U.S. administrations, against the spread of Communism, spearheaded by the Soviet Union and China. Eventually, South Vietnam fell in 1975, not because its soldiers lost their will to fight, but because it was abandoned by the U.S., while North Vietnam was supported until the end by its allies.

All that is now history. After 33 years, the wound of the war is still painful to millions of Vietnamese. It will not heal until the Vietnamese Communists are courageous enough, or are forced by public opinion, to admit the countless atrocities which they committed against their own people since they arrived on the Vietnamese political scene in 1945, and especially to acknowledge what happened to the thousands of innocent civilians who were brutally murdered by their troops while celebrating Tet close to half a century ago.

Danh T. Nguyen, Ottawa
Vietnamese Canadian Federation

Email to a friend

Printer friendly

Font:

BOOKMARK

want to know
what's going on in Ottawa?
sign up for the weekly
City Guides newsletter

Enter your email address:

[OUR PRIVACY STATEMENT](#)

OTTAWACITIZEN.COM

Today's Citizen



Soldier killed
The 79th
Canadian soldier
to die in

Afghanistan - a soldier only days away from ...

[\[more \]](#)

- Environment Canada expecting oilsands lawsuits
- Russia's Medvedev set for presidency
- Pottimore church destroyed by fire

More News Stories

Get the daily headlines emailed to you every morning with the Ottawa Citizen newsletter.

Email Address:

- [Our Privacy Statement](#)