



The San Diego Chapter
of Veterans For Peace will award a

\$500 Prize!

Essay Contest

*The My Lai Exhibit:
American Soldiers Intervened,
Investigated, and blew the whistle.*

What it means to me and its lessons for today.

A distinguished panel of judges includes Le Le Hayslip, author of *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*, and members of San Diego's Hugh Thompson Chapter of Veterans For Peace.

Essays of 400 to 650 words must relate to the exhibit *My Lai: A Massacre Took 504 Souls, and Shook the World* on display at the USD Copley Library March 16 and 17 in conjunction with a talk by My Lai Massacre photographer Ronald L. Haeberle.

Submit essays to Professors Kathryn Statler at kstatler@sandiego.edu, Joseph Babcock at josephdbabcock@gmail.com or Randy Willoughby at rwilloug@sandiego.edu.

Deadline: March 30, 2022



"The photographs were like dynamite. They horrified the nation. And the tide of public opinion began to turn against the war."

—Seymour Hersh, Investigative Journalist

My Lai: A Massacre Took 504 Souls, and Shook the World

On March 16, 1968, 105 members of Charlie Company, United States' First Battalion 20th Infantry Regiment, descended into the village of My Lai and nearby hamlets in Quang Ngai Province on a search and destroy mission to kill members of the Viet Cong. The only people to be found were noncombatants: elderly people, women and children.

Nevertheless, the soldiers killed 504 civilians in a four-hour massacre that remains one of the most brutal and notorious in U.S. history.

For more than a year the Army managed to conceal information about the massacre, but all of that changed with the publication in late 1969 of photographs by former Army photographer Ronald L. Haeberle.

More than 50 years later it is still hard to fathom what happened at My Lai, though much has been written. With this exhibit, we hope to spark discussion and teaching about real heroism and the power of images to prick the public's conscience in times of war.

All 19 of Ron Haeberle's photographs are on display for the first time in this exhibit.

"While on a trail, I approached a group of noncombatants who were surrounded by soldiers. I thought the soldiers were there to interrogate the noncombatants. I yelled, 'Hold it!' and shot my photo. As I walked away, I heard M-16s open up with full automatic fire. From the corner of my eye, I saw bodies falling, but I didn't turn to look."

—Ron Haeberle



Waging Peace in Vietnam

www.WagingPeaceInVietnam.com