



## VIETNAM AGENT ORANGE RELIEF & RESPONSIBILITY CAMPAIGN

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### **NGUYEN VAN QUY – A NAMED PLAINTIFF IN AGENT ORANGE LAWSUIT ON BEHALF OF VIETNAMESE VICTIMS DIES OF AGENT ORANGE CAUSED ILLNESS**

***Mr. Quy was presented with a Purple Heart Medal awarded to U.S. veterans' leader and Vietnam combat veteran David Cline at a ceremony in New York City***

July 9, 2007, New York – Mr. Nguyen Van Quy, a named plaintiff in the lawsuit brought on behalf of victims of the Agent Orange sprayed by the U.S. during the war in Vietnam was buried today in his hometown of Hai Phong, Vietnam. Mr. Quy died on Saturday one week after returning from a speaking tour in the U.S. He suffered from stomach and lung cancer as well as liver illness due to his exposure to Agent Orange while serving in the Peoples Army of Vietnam along the Ho Chi Minh Trail from 1972-75. He is survived by his wife, Vu Thi Loan, and his son and daughter, Nguyen Quang Trung and Nguyen Thi Thuy Nga, both of whom are physically and developmentally disabled due to Mr. Quy's exposure to the dioxin contained in Agent Orange.

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Quy, as part of a delegation of Agent Orange victims, attended a court hearing on the lawsuit which charges the U.S. chemical companies that profited from the manufacture of Agent Orange – including Dow Chemical, Monsanto, and 35 others – with knowingly providing the U.S. government with a poisonous agent to be sprayed indiscriminately on civilians and seeks compensation, clean-up and medical monitoring and support. The case was initiated by the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin, which represents Vietnam's more than three million victims of Agent Orange. The delegation visited New York, Washington DC, Chicago and San Francisco and met with U.S. veterans suffering from the affects of Agent Orange and other concerned citizens.

During a meeting at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Labor Center in New York on June 16<sup>th</sup>, **David Cline, the former President and current National Spokesperson of Veterans For Peace** and a 100% disabled Vietnam combat veteran, gave the Purple Heart he had received for his service in Vietnam to Nguyen Van Quy, saying, "We are brothers." Cline reaffirmed his determination to achieve justice and compensation for Quy and all Vietnamese Agent Orange victims. "*Along with American veterans, it is time that the Vietnamese be compensated for the terrible damage done to them and their land from the use of these chemical weapons,*" said Cline.

U.S. Vietnam veterans have received some measure of compensation for their exposure to dioxin through a court settlement with the chemical manufacturers and Veterans Administration service connected disability for Vietnam veterans with more than thirteen different health conditions.

"We are deeply saddened by the death of our friend Nguyen Van Quy who dedicated the last months of his life to fighting for justice for Vietnam's Agent Orange victims. Even as he suffered tremendously, Quy expressed optimism that, with the support of U.S. veterans and all the people of good will he had met in the U.S., he and his children would be able to obtain compensation for their injuries. While Mr. Quy has lost his personal battle with dioxin, his wife and two children still remain among the many others who cry out for justice," said **Merle E. Ratner, a Co-Coordinator of The Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign** which sponsored the tour.

The Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign is also pressing for U.S. government compensation for Vietnamese victims. For many years, the United States has recognized international laws of war that outlaw the use of poison or poisoned weapons. The Hague Convention of 1907, ratified by the U.S. Senate, contained a blanket prohibition on the use of weapons calculated to cause unnecessary suffering. Subsequent conventions, including the Geneva Conventions of 1925 and 1949, have reinforced these prohibitions.

Please contact the Vietnam Agent Orange and Relief and Responsibility Campaign at [www.vn-agentorange.org](http://www.vn-agentorange.org) for additional information.