

Letter from TPB NVG

To: Honoured Ladies and Gentlemen, Honoured Charitable Organisations and all Honoured Overseas Benefactors.

My name is NVG, born in 1947. I was declared an invalid veteran QL/VNCH, petty officer #XX?YYYYY, Company C, Battalion B, Regiment RR, Division AA BB, CCC XXXX.

During an assault in September 1974 at Phú Giáo in the province of Bình Dương, I was wounded which resulted in my right leg amputated, my left leg numbed and my abdomen operated on. Those were the marks war had left on my body. An ache with a lot of loss that I have had to endure.

Over 30 years I have endured many hardships, selling raffle tickets, two sessions a day in my wheelchair to feed myself.

Then in March 2004, I was bowled over with many unyielding symptoms. I had a slipped disc...the bones of my spine became brittle and thus I cannot sit anymore. My heart was not pumping properly, I had arthritis of my shoulder and inflammation of the gastric lining. I could not sit in my wheel chair to earn my living anymore.

As for my wife, her fate is not much better than mine. She has arthritis of both knees, after many years of treatment she has now lost feelings in them. Luckily she can still drag herself around to look after our meals. Anyone that visits feel sad for us.

A life full of hardship is made even more difficult by the birth of our daughter. She has now married, her family is living in poverty. We also take care of a nephew, he is 20 years old, during the day he works as a bricklayer and can only help take care of us at night.

I had a visit from a brother in law. He felt bad for our situation and so he took me back to his home to look after me, to lighten the burden off my nephew's shoulders. He lives in the country and is also poor.

Today I write this letter, but because my spine hurt I could not continue but had to rely on someone else to finish it for me. I ask for your pardon and only ask that you find it in your heart empathy, generosity to come to aid your fellow countrymen who still have the markings of war on their bodies.

Because I was still being treated at Tổng Y Viện Cộng Hoà by 30.03.75, I did not make it to Hội Đồng Y Khoa for diagnosis and prognosis hence I do not have the required papers, treatment plans, discharge papers or certificate /evidence of my ailments.

While waiting for your kindness and aid I would like to thank you and please accept my gratefulness.

TPB NVG
(Translator: Le Uyen Vy)