

City of Westminster

from the office of
Mayor Tri Ta



A STATEMENT FROM MAYOR TRI TA REGARDING THE MONUMENT PROJECT

The monument project, which is totally privately funded, is actually a relatively small, non-controversial item out of several dozen items and projects the Westminster City Council has worked on just within the past four months. One of the Council's main priority has been and, will continue to be, making the city a safe, friendly place to work and live for all residents and businesses.

Last December, the Westminster City Council unanimously voted 5/5 to approve a veteran memorial honoring the victory of South Vietnamese combat troops, with only US air support and advice, against North Vietnamese forces in the Second Easter Offensive of 1972, also known in the Vietnamese nom de guerre as, "Mua He Do Lua", or the Red Fiery Summer. This monument marks the biggest victory of South Vietnamese armed forces against the Communist North, which launched over 16 well-armed divisions on a coordinated nation-wide attack against the South in the Spring of 1972, while American ground troops were being withdrawn prior to the signing of the Paris Peace Accord in 1973.

Given the significant historical value of this proposed monument, this project has received far and wide support from both American and Vietnamese veterans, officers and enlisted alike, veteran organizations, civic groups, Vietnamese-language media, and friends and family members of local Vietnamese communities throughout the US. In fact, the Foundation overseeing the development of this project has received donations from hundreds of donors from all over the US and also from Canada, Europe, and Australia.

The construction of this monument will be fully financed by private donors. It costs the city nothing and, in fact, will contribute to the cultural, historical, and economic richness of Westminster -- home to the largest percentage of residents of Vietnamese descents outside of Vietnam. Community support for this monument has been tremendous in the relatively short period that it was proposed and the city is proud to give it a rightful home.



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