April 15, 2008

Vietnam Veterans Against the War was saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Dang Vu Hiep. Our hearts go out to his family, friends, and comrades, and to the membership of Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin that he led until his death. Your loss is our loss.

He inspired us with his dedication to his country; his life-long work for the independence of Vietnam; and, in his last years, his fight for justice for the victims of Agent Orange.

Mr. Hiep was, like so many of his countrymen, a victim of the poison sprayed over large portions of Vietnam during the American war, and the illnesses spawned by Agent Orange took his life. Many of the US veterans of the war were also affected by Agent Orange, and we have worked for many years to achieve compensation for our own. VVAW also stands in solidarity with VAVA and the Vietnamese people, and is working to achieve compensation for the many Vietnamese whose health and land were damaged by the war and its poisons.

Mr. Hiep’s leadership as a fighter for liberty for Vietnam and later a founder and president of the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin was an example to all who wish for and work for a better world.

To such heroism and selfless dedication that marked Dang Vu Hiep’s life we can pay homage only by promising to work harder to achieve the goals to which he dedicated himself.

In sorrow and solidarity,

Paul Cox
Vietnam Veterans Against the War