

award Pete Peterson with the President's Citizen's Medal. And I would like the commander to read the citation and then bring the medal up here so I can give it to Pete.

[At this point, Lt. Comdr. Pat DeQuattro, USCG, Coast Guard Aide to the President, read the citation, and the President presented the medal to Ambassador Peterson. The Ambassador then made brief remarks.]

The President. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7 p.m. in the Ballroom at the Daewoo Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Ambassador Peterson's Vietnamese wife, Vi Le. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Ambassador Peterson. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a State Dinner Hosted by President Tran Duc Luong of Vietnam in Hanoi

November 17, 2000

Mr. President, Madam Luong, distinguished representatives of the Vietnamese Government, ladies and gentlemen: Let me thank you for your welcome to me and to my family and to our entire American delegation.

We are honored to join you in writing a new chapter in the relationship between the United States and Vietnam and grateful that this chapter has a happy beginning. Yes, the history we leave behind is painful and hard. We must not forget it, but we must not be controlled by it. The past is only what precedes the future, not what determines it.

America and Vietnam are making a new history today. A generation from now, people will look back on this time and see the American veterans who came back to Vietnam searching for answers about the past and the Vietnamese who enlisted them in building a common future. They will see the young Vietnamese students, eager to absorb all the world has to offer, and the young Americans who have come here to learn with them. They will see the entrepreneurs and the scientists and the conservationists and the artists, forging links between Vietnam and the world.

In short, people will look back and reach the same conclusion as the great Vietnamese

statesman Nguyen Trai when he said 500 years ago, "After so many years of war, only life remains."

Today, our people face a changing world and a changing life together, with the same basic aspirations and even some of the same worries. How can we seize the opportunities of a global economy while avoiding its turmoil? How can we open our doors to new ideas while protecting our traditions, our cultures, our way of life?

Globalization is bringing the world to Vietnam and also bringing Vietnam to the world. Films about life in Vietnam, from "The Scent of the Green Papaya" to "The Three Seasons" are winning awards all over the globe. The paintings of the Vietnamese artist Do Quang Em command fortunes at international art shows. The 200-year-old poems of Ho Xuan Huong are published in America, in English, in Vietnamese, and even in the original Nom, the first time ancient Vietnamese script has come off a printing press. Fashion designers like Armani and Calvin Klein base new collections on the traditional Vietnamese dress, the *ao dai*. Americans are tasting lemon grass, garlic chives, and even bitter melon, all of which, by the way, grow on a Vietnamese farm in our State of Virginia, just a 20-minute drive from the White House.

Mr. President, globalization also means that on the Internet, Americans can read the latest Vietnamese financial news or learn about the challenges in restoring Hanoi's Old Quarter or support the organizations working to preserve new species being found in the central highlands. It means we can download fonts in the Vietnamese language. Indeed, before long, sophisticated translation technologies will make the Internet a force for linguistic diversity, not uniformity.

When we open our doors, we not only let new ideas in; we let the talent and creativity and potential of our people out. That, too, will come to Vietnam. After just one day in your country, I am certain there will be no stopping the people of Vietnam as they gain the chance to realize their full potential. The people of the United States are happy that the time has come when we can be partners.

As "The Tale of Kieu" foretold, "Just as the lotus wilts, the mums bloom forth; time softens grief; and the winter turns to spring."

Now the frozen images of the past have begun to thaw. The outlines of a warmer shared future have begun to take shape. Let us make the most of this new spring together.

I ask you to join me in a toast to the President of Vietnam, to Madam Luong, to the people of this great country, and to our future friendship together.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:38 p.m. at the Presidential Palace. In his remarks, he referred to President Luong's wife, Nguyen Thi Vinh.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 11

In the morning, the President attended a Veterans Day breakfast in the Blue Room at the White House, and later, he traveled to Arlington, VA, where he participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

November 12

In the afternoon, the President met with Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel in the Oval Office Dining Room at the White House.

November 13

In the morning, the President and Chelsea Clinton traveled to Kona, HI. In the afternoon, he met with Gov. Benjamin J. Cayetano of Hawaii. Later, the President and Chelsea Clinton traveled to Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, arriving the next evening.

November 14

Upon his arrival in Brunei, the President had a telephone conversation with Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority concerning the Middle East peace process.

November 15

In the evening, the President attended a dinner for APEC leaders in the Plenary Hall of the International Convention Center.

November 16

In the afternoon, the President attended a luncheon for APEC leaders in the Dining Room of the Royal Brunei Golf Club. In the evening, he traveled to Hanoi, Vietnam.

November 17

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton participated in a welcoming ceremony at the Presidential Palace and met with President Tran Duc Luong of Vietnam in Room B of the Presidential Palace and participated in an agreement-signing ceremony with President Luong in Room A of the palace. Later, the President toured the Temple of Literature, and in the afternoon, he met with Prime Minister Phan Van Khai of Vietnam in the Receiving Room of the Government Guest House.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted November 14

Larry Carp,
of Missouri, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the 55th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Richard N. Gardner,
of New York, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the 55th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Jay T. Snyder,
of New York, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the 55th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.