

MEDIA ALERT
February 26, 2019

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Panel Discussion and Exhibit Opening *The League of Wives: Vietnam's POW/MIA Advocates & Allies*

Richmond, VA — The Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC) will host a panel discussion on the eve of the exhibit opening for *The League of Wives: Vietnam's POW/MIA Advocates & Allies* exhibit. The discussion on Friday, March 1, at 6:30 p.m., *Breaking the Silence*, features a rare opportunity to hear about the efforts of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia from the women who led it. Guests will learn how these women captured national attention and united a deeply divided country behind bringing Vietnam prisoners of war home and by demanding an accounting for American servicemen missing in action. The exhibit is based on the upcoming book by Heath Hardage Lee, *The League of Wives: The Untold Story of the Women Who Took on the U.S. Government to Bring Their Husbands Home from Vietnam*.



There will be opportunities for media to interview panelists before and after the lecture.
Contact Lizzie Oglesby 804-342-9665 or loglesby@virginiahistory.org to schedule an interview.

Breaking the Silence: League of Wives Panel Discussion

Friday, March 1, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Robins Family Forum at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture

Moderator: Audrey McKanna Coleman, Senior Archivist and Assistant Director of the Dole Institute of Politics

Panelists:

- Heath Hardage Lee, exhibit curator and author of *The League of Wives: The Untold Story of the Women Who Took on the U.S. Government to Bring Their Husbands Home from Vietnam*
- Andrea Rander, founding board member of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia
- Marty Halyburton, Southeast Regional Coordinator and National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia board member
- Louis Mulligan, Virginia Beach/Virginia Regional Coordinator of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia in 1969

The League of Wives: Vietnam's POW/MIA Advocates & Allies

Saturday, March 2 – Tuesday, September 3, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans Gallery at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture

- Including artifacts from the Vietnam War era, *The League of Wives* illustrates the dramatic story of how the spouses of American servicemen bucked government protocol and challenged the traditional role of “military wife.”
- Featuring the stories of the courageous women who went to extraordinary lengths to facilitate their husbands’ freedom: Sybil Stockdale on the West Coast; Jane Denton, Louise Mulligan, and Phyllis Galanti on the East Coast; and Helene Knapp in the Interior West.

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE

This exhibition is curated by 2017 Dole Archives Curatorial Fellow Heath Hardage Lee and based on her upcoming book, *The League of Wives: The Untold Story of the Women Who Took on the U.S. Government to Bring Their Husbands Home from Vietnam* (2019, St. Martin's Press). The League of Wives was organized by the Dole Institute of Politics and made possible by Harlan and Alice Ann Ochs in honor of Larry Ochs.

The Virginia Museum of History & Culture is owned and operated by the Virginia Historical Society — a private, non-profit organization established in 1831. The historical society is the oldest cultural organization in Virginia, and one of the oldest and most distinguished history organizations in the nation. For use in its state history museum and its renowned research library, the historical society cares for a collection of nearly nine million items representing the ever-evolving story of Virginia.

The Virginia Museum of History & Culture is located at 428 North Boulevard in Richmond's Museum District. Hours are Monday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for the galleries and museum shop, Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for the research library. For more information call (804) 340-1800, visit VirginiaHistory.org, or connect with the Virginia Museum of History & Culture on Facebook and Twitter.

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