



# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

June 16, 2005

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I write to ask that you grant Friends of the Children of Vietnam (FCVN) consideration for the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award. FCVN has been committed to wartime humanitarian efforts and human liberty.

FCVN volunteers dedicated themselves to rescuing orphans of the Vietnam War, staffing orphanages and clinics in the war-torn nation, and helping evacuate orphans in April 1975 as part of President Gerald Ford's "Operation Babylift." This unforgettable effort saved the lives of thousands of abandoned children by placing them in loving homes around the globe.

Operation Babylift was an extraordinary example of bravery and selflessness in one of our nation's darkest hours. Thousands of children who were adopted in the United States are now successful adults- a living testament to the power of compassion and the potential for meaningful action on a global scale.

The historical importance of Operation Babylift is especially salient this year, as this year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the American war in Vietnam. Over the last three decades, FCVN's efforts have been memorialized in numerous books, movies, television programs, magazines, etc. This operation is honored in an Oakland Museum exhibit and will be the subject of an upcoming documentary on the History Channel.

I urge you to recognize the bravery, integrity, and achievements of the Friends of the Children of Vietnam by awarding them the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Please take this opportunity to honor America's spirit of compassion as exemplified by the historic rescue of thousands of war orphans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator