

## **BIO-Ron Milam**

Dr. Ron Milam is a Fulbright Scholar to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the founding Faculty advisor to the Veterans' Association at Texas Tech University. He teaches both halves of the U.S. Survey, the Vietnam War, and graduate and undergraduate courses in Military History. He also teaches Study Abroad in Southeast Asia every other summer in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Dr. Milam is the author of *Not a Gentleman's War: An Inside View of Junior Officers in the Vietnam War*, published by the University of North Carolina Press, and the editor of *The Vietnam War in Popular Culture: The Influence of America's Most Controversial War on Everyday Life* (2 volumes), published by ABC-CLIO/Praeger.

Dr. Milam is a member of the Texas Tech Teaching Academy, recipient of the President's Excellence in Teaching Award, the Chancellor's Council Excellence in Teaching Award, the President's Excellence in Teaching Professorship and is an Integrated Scholar. He is the Executive Director of the Institute for Peace & Conflict (IPAC), which includes the world-renowned Vietnam Center and Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the David Westphall Veterans Foundation, which operates the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire, New Mexico. He is a member of the Veteran's Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation (VACOR).

Dr. Milam is a combat veteran of the Vietnam War, and in 2015 was inducted into the Officer Candidate School (OCS) Hall of Fame at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning/Fort Moore, Georgia.

## **Personal Statement of Ron Milam**

I humbly submit my application to serve as a trustee for SMH. My particular interest in serving is to continue to emphasize the need to create the next generation of military historians, which I have done at Texas Tech University for 20 years. I have “hooded” 9 Ph.D. military history students, all of whom are currently employed at the Air Force Academy, Air Force Command & Staff College, University of Texas, Arlington, Harvard Kennedy School, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, U.S. Army, Germany, Dyes Air Force Base. I currently chair 10 Doctoral Dissertation committees and 13 Master’s Thesis committees and many of these students have presented papers at SMH over the past 20 years. Three of my students have been honored as recipients of the Russel Weigley Travel Grants.

I formerly served as the Chair of the Membership Committee. I firmly believe that our future rests with the men and women who are currently studying military history – broadly defined – at universities across the globe, and I wish to be involved in that effort as a Trustee of SMH.

Also, 2025 is the year that we commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. As a combat veteran of that war, I want to add my voice – and scholarship – to help us understand and apply our lessons learned to future wars so as to avoid such tragedies.

**JOHN R. MILAM (RON)**  
[ron.milam@ttu.edu](mailto:ron.milam@ttu.edu)

**EDUCATION**

Ph.D. U.S. History, University of Houston, May 2004  
 - Minor: European History  
 - Doctoral Examination Fields: Woman's History, Modern Slavery, Military History, Vietnam War  
 M.A. Political Science, Wayne State University, June 1981  
 M.B.A. Wayne State University, June 1968  
 B.S. Industrial Relations, Wayne State University, December 1967

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

Executive Director, Institute for Peace & Conflict, Texas Tech University (IPAC) – current.  
 Professor, U.S. History, Texas Tech University, Fall 2023 – current.  
 Associate Professor, U.S. History, Texas Tech University, 2010 – 2023.  
 Assistant Professor, U.S. History, Texas Tech University, 2004 – summer 2010.  
 Interim Director, Center for War & Diplomacy in the Post-Vietnam War Era, and Graduate Advisor for the Institute for Modern Conflict, Diplomacy and Reconciliation, 2007-2009  
 Instructor, History Dept., University of Houston, U.S. History, 2001-2004  
 Senior Vice President, Marketing and Trading, Engage Energy - 1998-1999

**ACADEMIC AWARDS and HONORS**

Nominated by Texas Tech University as Andrew Carnegie Fellow Candidate, 2025.  
 Named Peace Professor, United States Institute of Peace, Washington, D.C., 2024.  
 Nominated by Center of Military History to Department of Army Historical Advisory Committee, 2022.  
 Global Engagement Community Award, 2022.  
 Because of You I Can, Honoree, Lubbock, Texas, 2021.  
 Appointed by Secretary of Veterans Affairs to Veterans Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation, 2019, 2022.  
 Named to Summer Faculty, U.S.S. Midway, Institute for Teachers, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023.  
 Recipient of Presidential Excellence in Teaching Professorship, 2018, 2021.  
 Recipient of Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award, 2017.  
 Named Integrated Scholar, Texas Tech University, 2017.  
 "Apple Polishing" Award by Mortar Board Society, 2017 & 2006.  
 Inducted into Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame, National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning/Fort Moore, GA 2015.  
 Nominated for Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award, 2015, 2016.  
 Named Summer Fellow, United States Military Academy "West Point," 2014.  
 Core Fulbright Fellowship Award to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 2012.  
 Appointed to the Content Advisory Committee of the Education Center at The Wall as one of 10 Vietnam War Scholars, 2012.  
 Recipient of President's Excellence in Teaching Award, Texas Tech University, 2009  
 Recipient of Phi Alpha Theta Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award, TTU History Department, 2009.  
 Elected to Texas Tech University Teaching Academy, fall 2008  
 Elected Academic Fellow to Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, Israel, 2007

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books:**

*Not a Gentleman's War: An Inside View of Junior Officers in the Vietnam War*, (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2009), ISBN: 978-0807833308. Paperback edition, August 2, 2012.

*The Vietnam War in Popular Culture: The Influence of America's Most Controversial War on Everyday Life*, Two Volumes, (Santa Barbara, California ABC-CLIO/Praeger 2016, editor), ISBN: 978-1440840463.

#### Current Project:

"The Siege of Phu Nhon: Montagnards and Americans as Allies in Battle"

#### Articles, Chapters, Essays

"U.S. Combat Soldiers in Vietnam" in *The Cambridge History of the Vietnam War*, Volume Two, War, Cambridge University Press, 2024) ISBN #978-1107105157.

"The War in Vietnam" in *The Oxford Handbook of Military History*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2025)

"1967: The Era of Big Battles in Vietnam," in *The New York Times*, January 10, 2017.

"Foreword" in *The Texas Liberators: Veteran Narratives From World War II*, (Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 2017) ISBN #978-1682830246.

"The Military Advisor in Vietnam" in *Beyond The Quagmire*, (University of North Texas Press, 2018) ISBN: 978-1574417487.

"From Soldier to Scholar" in *A Legacy of Service, A Collection of Original Essays, Personal Stories, and Hopes for our Country*, Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Fund, 2013.

"The Soldier's Experience in Vietnam" in *The Routledge Handbook of American Military and Diplomatic History* (New York: Routledge Press, 2014), ISBN: 978-0415888479.

"Combat, Physical and Psychological Impact," in *Encyclopedia of Military Science*, Thousand Oaks, California: SAGE Publications Inc., 2013), ISBN# 978-1412969338.

"Motivation" in *Encyclopedia of Military Science* (Thousand Oaks, California: SAGE Publications Inc., 2013), ISBN #978-1412969338.

"Veteran's Rights Movements" in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Social History*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012) ISBN: 978-0199743360.

"Biographies of John P. Baca, Ed W. Freeman and Shizuya Hayashi" in *America's Heroes: Medal of Honor Recipients from the Civil War to Iraq*, (Santa Barbara, California: ABC-CLIO, 2010), ISBN: 978-1598843934.

"The Vietnam War," in *Companion to American Military History*, (London, England: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, Inc. 2009), ISBN: 978-1405161493.

"Calley Apologizes for My Lai: What Does it Mean?" Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, author's blog, August 2009.

"Two Takes: Pentagon Was Correct to Lift the Photo Ban on Military Coffins Returning Home", *U.S. News and World Report*, 2009.

"Outsourcing Marketing Creates Value" in *The American Oil & Gas Reporter*, with David Pruner, 1999.

#### Grants, Contracts

\$680,000 DoD Grant to support CMH Graduate Research Assistant Fellowship Program, 2022-2024.

\$300,000 DoD Grant to support DPAA Ph.D. Fellowship Program

\$340,000 MDH Grant to process the Agent Orange Collection

\$100,000 NEH Grant to process Vietnam War Oral History Interviews

\$1MM DoD Grant to assist with Vietnamese Missing in Action (VMIA) Project

\$250,000 Lee Roy Herron Endowed Scholarship for Study Abroad in Southeast Asia

\$250,000 Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association Endowment to process VHPA Collections

\$7,500 Grant from Strake Foundation to support Graduate Certificate in Strategic Studies

\$165,000 Grant for Ohio National Guard Research program

Principal Investigator (PI) for \$296,000 Award from Center of Military History (CMH) to provide a Graduate research Assistant for 5 years, 2017.

Associate PI, Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission, "Texas Liberator Project" 215-2017 – \$175,000.

Keynote Speaker, National Endowment for Humanities (NEH), "Echoes of War," Minnesota Humanities, 2017 - \$2,200.

United States Military Academy, Summer Fellow, 2014 - \$4,000.

Ford Foundation Grant to Teach "The History of U.S. Foreign Policy" to Graduate Students and Lecturers in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 2010 - \$8,000.

Foundation for the Defense of Democracy Grant for Terrorism Conference in Israel, 2017 - \$8,000.

**GRADUATE COMMITTEES**

Supervised 9 Completed Dissertations  
 Supervised 2 Completed Honors Thesis.  
 Supervised 34 Completed Masters Theses/Non-Thesis Degrees.  
 Chair of 11 Doctoral Dissertation Committees.  
 Member of 10 Doctoral Dissertation Committees  
 Chair of 13 Master thesis Committees.  
 Member of 6 Master Thesis Committees.

**INVITED LECTURES**

“Lessons Learned from the Vietnam War,” 27<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing, Cannon Air Force Base, October 15, 2024.  
 “Texas Tech and the Institute For Peace & Conflict’s Assistance in Finding and Identifying MIAs” Annual Government Briefing for Families, Washington, D.C., June 27-28, 2024.  
 “National Steering Committee – 515 – to Discuss 300,000 Missing Vietnamese Soldiers,” Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, December 15, 2021.  
 “What Veterans Day Means Today,” hosted by the Silent Wings Museum, Lubbock, TX, November 11, 2021.  
 “The Institute for Peace & Conflict, Vietnam Center & Sam Johnson Vietnam archive at Texas Tech University,” Hosted by the Military Officers Association at Texas Tech University, Lakeridge Country Club, Lubbock TX, November 2, 2021.  
 “Vietnam: My War – Afghanistan: Your War” Wounded Warrior Assembly, Hutchinson Middle School, Lubbock, TX, September 17, 2021. “On This Hallowed Ground,” Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Angel Fire, NM, July 4, 2021.  
 “A Veteran Looks at Vietnam War Scholarship,” Foreign Relations Course at San Diego State University, April 13, 2021.  
 “Dereliction of Duty by H.R. McMasters,” Ft. Worth Military History Book Club, Fort Worth, TX, November 13, 2020.  
 “Crooked Bamboo: Introduction of Nguyen Thai,” Barnes & Noble Book Signing at University of California, Berkley, November 24, 2019.  
 “Veteran’s Day and What it Means Today,” at the Silent Wings Museum, Lubbock TX, November 11, 2019.  
 “Texas Tech’s Ability to Help Find MIAs,” at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Hickam Air Force Base, Honolulu, Hawaii, September 10, 2019.  
 “A Veteran/Soldier Looks at Reconciliation,” McDonald Lecture Series, Angel Fire, NM, August 11-13, 2019.  
 “Medal of Honor Society Introduction of General Brady,” Lubbock, TX, July 29, 2019.  
 “The Influence of the Vietnam War on American Life,” U.S.S. Midway Museum Conference for High School Teachers, San Diego, CA, July 12, 2019.  
 “Who is a Veteran?” West Texas Salute to Veterans, Lubbock, TX, June 8, 2019.  
 “IPAC’s Impact at Texas Tech,” Kiwanis Club, Lubbock, TX, June 6, 2019.  
 “That Was Then, and This Is Now: Why the Vietnam War Still Matters,” Counterparts Reunion, Houston, TX, April 6, 2019.  
 “Work, Fight, Give,” NEH Funded Lecture at the Silent Wings Museum on “The Greatest Generation,” Lubbock, TX, January 11, 2019.  
 “Vietnam: My War – Afghanistan: Your War” Wounded Warrior Assembly, Hutchinson Middle School, Lubbock, Texas, September 17, 2021.  
 “Beyond the Quagmire: New Interpretations of the Vietnam War,” at the IPAC Conference: “1970-1971: Nixon, Discord, and the U.S. Withdrawal from Vietnam,” Lubbock, Texas, April 9, 2021.  
 “Dereliction of Duty” by H.R. McMasters, Ft. Worth Military History Book Club, November 13, 2020.  
 “Veteran’s Day and What it Means Today,” at the Silent Wings Museum, Lubbock Texas, November 11, 2019.