



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Exhibit Honors Vietnam Veterans and Local Hometown Hero

The Vietnam Combat Art Exhibit that opens Sept. 8 at the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts has been expanded to include a salute to a hometown hero, Col. Fred Vann Cherry, USAF, Ret. who died earlier this year.

As part of the salute to Col. Cherry, Cmdr. Porter Halyburton, USN, Ret. will make remarks about his friendship with Col. Cherry that began while the two were POWs in Vietnam for seven years. Cmdr. Halyburton will also sign copies of the book, "Two Souls Indivisible", by James S. Hirsch about the years the two men spent in captivity.

A collection of Col. Cherry's memorabilia from his military career has been loaned by his family to be displayed along with the combat art exhibit which is on view from Sept. 8 to 30.

The Vietnam Combat Art exhibit, made possible by the County of Roanoke, the cities of Roanoke and Salem, the Town of Vinton, and the Stonewall Jackson Chapter AUSA, features 39 visual works of art documented by military and civilian artists during the war.

The Gallery Opening Reception begins at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 8. Another special feature of the evening is a performance by the TRADOC Ceremonial Band.

The exhibit will run until Friday, Sept. 30, and exhibit hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Other events during the September Salute to the Military include Adm. William E. Gortney, USN, Ret., speaking on "Art Honoring Those Who Wear the Cloth of Our Nation" on Thursday, Sept. 15 at 7:00 p.m. as part of the Suffolk Center's Speaker Series.

The film "Thao's Library", a heart-touching movie inspired by a young Vietnamese survivor, will be shown on Thursday, Sept. 22 at 7:00 p.m. Stephen Katz, Director of Photography for the film, will talk about the making of the film and do a Q and A with the audience.

On a lighter note, families are invited to see the Disney movie "Big Hero 6" on Saturday, Sept. 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the Suffolk Center. The movie is presented in partnership with Suffolk Tourism.

All September events are free and open to the public.

For more information on the September salute to the armed forces, please visit www.suffolkcenter.org.