



# Bridges

## Lessons of Vietnam



### A Tribute to an Amazing Lady!

By Amber Davis

The Millbrook High School *Lessons of Vietnam* classes will not be the same without Mrs. Mouza Zumwalt's bi-annual visit and her radiant smile. The wife of Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr. sadly passed away on August 25<sup>th</sup> 2005. She was an important contributor to our *LOV* Program, giving students a unique perspective of the Vietnam War from her experience as the wife and mother of loved ones who served. Throughout her life, she was dedicated to teaching and helping others.

Mouza Coutelais-du-Roché was born in 1922 in Harbin, Manchuria, and was the only daughter of a French Baron and a White Russian mother who had escaped from Russia after the Communist Revolution. Her appreciation for democracy started when she was a little girl and the Japanese invaded Manchuria. When her mother became ill from cancer, Mrs. Zumwalt accompanied her to Shanghai, but the Japanese did not permit her father to join her. After the death of her mother, she was not able to return to Harbin, and she never saw her father again.

On October 1st, 1945, Mouza fell in love at first sight with then Lt. Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr. at a dinner party in Shanghai. Only three weeks after their first meeting, the couple married. Mouza then moved to the United States where she would raise a family with her handsome Naval officer. Even though she eventually lived in forty different homes, she still managed to provide a somewhat normal life for her four children.

It was challenging for Mrs. Zumwalt to deal with the time consuming obligations of a Navy wife, but she actively embraced her duties. She hosted military officials, counseled military wives, helped families of Navy POW's and MIA's, and sat in on focus groups that dealt with race relations in the Navy. In the poem, "Tribute to a Golden Partner," Admiral Zumwalt wrote to his beloved wife: "You raised morale on many ships, solved many family problems on ocean trips."

As her son, Lt. Col. Jim Zumwalt wrote, "It was Mouza's faith and love of family that enabled her to overcome some of the greatest tragedies of her life, including the loss of her first-born son, Elmo, in 1988 to cancer." After her husband passed away in January, 2000, Mrs. Zumwalt continued to dedicate herself to The Marrow Foundation, which recognized her efforts by establishing the Mouza Zumwalt Good Deed Fund to financially

help those donating their bone marrow to save the lives of cancer victims. She was also dedicated to teaching Millbrook High School *LOV* students, proudly sharing the Medal of Freedom bestowed upon her husband by President Clinton in 1998.

The *LOV* class at Millbrook High School meant a great deal to Mrs. Zumwalt. Her daughter, Mrs. Mouzetta Zumwalt-Weathers, said, "My mother came all the way from Arlington, VA each semester to remind Mrs. Poling's *LOV* students that they are the *future leaders* of this country. She believed in each one of them to *do the right thing*." Ms. Poling, was extremely honored to serve as an Honorary Pallbearer

at Mrs. Zumwalt's funeral service at the U.S. Naval Academy on Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005. Vice Admiral Emmett Tidd, who coordinated the ceremony, shared with our teacher that the Zumwalt family requested her presence because of her "dedicated service in teaching our youth." Mrs. Zumwalt believed Ms. Poling to be "one of the strongest among her generation to help keep alive the legacy of Admiral Zumwalt," said Vice Admiral Tidd.

Former *LOV* student, Andy Cao, wrote in a thank you letter to Mrs. Zumwalt, "Your husband was a great man, yet you yourself are a great woman. How strong you must have been when your husband and sons were fighting wars. Your love for your country seems immeasurable, as well as your intelligence and compassion." There is no doubt that the *LOV* students and teacher she touched and cared for so deeply will always remember her life lessons. This amazing lady will continue to be an inspiration for all of us!



*Mrs. Mouzetta Zumwalt-Weathers and her mother, Mrs. Mouza Zumwalt, shared with LOV students the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded to Admiral Zumwalt in 1998.*



## September 11th: Four Years Later

By Ben Al-Abdalli

On September 11, 2001, our nation received an unprecedented blow. Four years later, some victims are still finding it very hard to stop reliving the haunting memory of that day. But what about those of us who were not in New York or Washington at the time? Have we already begun to sever our emotional ties to an occurrence we could never fully comprehend?

Weeks after what we now call "9-11," our televisions and radios were almost entirely devoted to up-to-the-minute news coverage. Four years later, "9-11" seems to be most often mentioned in political speeches and history classes.

It has been said that time heals all wounds; and for some, it will take more time than for others. However, this year is a milestone in terms of the sentiment that has been



Artwork by Eric Weber

lost. Several MHS students did not even realize it was September 11th until late into the day, and those who did felt the date was not as much of an issue as they had expected it to be. "There were no regular broadcasting interruptions or day-long tributes," commented MHS junior DJ Rogers. "It's only been four years, and we're still emotional [as a nation], but we've got to keep living."

"Are we going to keep recognizing this anniversary ten years from now?" senior Sheelah Iyengar wondered. It is an interesting question. Many important historical events are eventually relegated to textbooks--where the voices of the victims are heard but once a semester. Perhaps it is unrealistic to expect that we can focus on the magnanimity of these events with the same sentiment year after year. But yet, we must never forget.

## Update on Darfur: The Twenty-First Century Genocide

By Kevie Malek and Melissa DiBenedetto

"Genocide" is a term used to describe a systematic extermination of a particular racial, national, or religious group. What first pops into minds when you hear of genocide is the Holocaust. In the Darfur region of Western Sudan, a horrible crisis is going on as we speak. Over 1.5 million civilians have been driven from their homes, their villages torched and their property stolen by the Sudanese military and allied militia sometimes referred to as "Janjaweed." Tens of thousands of civilians have been murdered and thousands of women raped. The attackers refer to themselves as "Arabs" while their victims are "Africans." Darfurians who have fled the violence provide chilling testimony. One refugee told the *New York Times* that "the Arabs want to get rid of anyone with black skin (...) There are no blacks left [in the area I fled]."

On May 13th, 2005, ten students from Millbrook High School attended a conference about Darfur held at the Exploris Museum in Raleigh, North Carolina. The keynote speaker was Suliman Giddo, the Co-Founder and President of Darfur Peace and Development. Mr. Giddo was born and raised in Darfur, and his organization works to raise awareness of the conflicts currently taking place. He lectured about Darfur and how the civilians still need help. Millbrook High School senior Stephanie Kopple commented, "Suliman Giddo made me realize how devastating genocide truly is. It is hard to believe that Darfur is still struggling after all these years." Senior Jason Nelson said, "Listening to Suliman Giddo not only made the audience emotional for what was going on, but he made them willing to do something."

Attention has shifted away from Darfur in recent months due to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and the London bombings, but we cannot forget what is still occurring in Darfur. The Live 8 concerts on July 2nd worked to raise millions to help reconstruct Africa. Actor Ryan Gosling helps out by wearing a

white T-shirt with the death statistics of Darfur on the back, bringing attention to the crisis to people everywhere. Many are wearing army green bracelets with "Save Darfur" written across them. Many people help out in their own way, but the people of Darfur will still suffer unless the security situation improves.

The International Committee of the Red Cross stated that Darfur was a "region of fear." An average of two million have been forced from their homes and subjected to widespread abuse. This is definitely the globe's worst and most intractable humanitarian crisis. The UN special representative to Sudan, Jan Pronk, recently urged, "The time has come for the parties to organize themselves by word and deed in finding a solution for the Darfur crisis."

It is very inspiring to see how students are responding to the slaughter in Darfur. In just one year, the Genocide Intervention Fund (GIF), started by Swathmore College students, has raised a whopping \$250,000! The money is to be used for hiring female African police officers to protect Darfur women from being raped. To promote awareness about one of Africa's worst humanitarian crises, we strongly encourage you to join the online discussion group for student activism on Darfur sponsored by the United States Holocaust Memorial at <http://forums.ushmm.org>.

Millbrook students and their LOV/RIR teacher attended an informational program about the crisis in Darfur at the Exploris Museum on May 13th. Several students have been inspired to start a new club at our school.





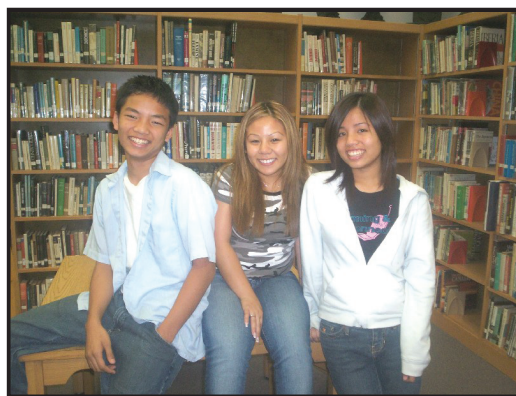
## A Family's Life in the Wake of Katrina

By Cindy Nguyen

On August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina, a Category 4 storm, made its second landfall along the central Gulf Coast near New Orleans, Louisiana. Several sections of the levee system protecting New Orleans from Lake Pontchartrain were destroyed by the storm surge. This and other major damage to Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama made Katrina the most destructive and costliest natural disaster in U.S. history.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin ordered a mandatory evacuation of New Orleans on August 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. By early September, people were being forcibly evacuated. Katrina victims were relocated from shelter to shelter, with increased numbers of missing children and family separations.

With relatives in the affected areas, I was able to identify on a personal level with the Katrina victims. While some of my relatives were safely evacuated, others were left to struggle through the evacuation process. Some are still missing today. My father, fortunately, was able to assist relatives who had relocated to the Louisiana border. My family took in three other families as well. One of these, the Trans, had just recently arrived from Vietnam to settle in New Orleans, where they planned to start a new life in the United States. When their relatives' home flooded, their only hope of survival was to move in with my family in Raleigh, North Carolina.



*Thien, Cindy, and Nhi gathered together in the MHS Media Center to say their last good-byes before the Dinh family returned to Louisiana.*

Such relocation brought back difficult memories to many of the older members of my extended family. Leaving Vietnam to come live the "American Dream" was not easy then--or now. Being Vietnamese immigrants made it "extremely difficult to adapt to the environment," my Uncle Duc Tran explained.

Two of my cousins, Nhi and Thien Dinh attended Millbrook High School for a month. After the first day at their new school, I asked them several questions and received some answers that I did not expect to hear. Nhi explained to me that she was surprised by the Millbrook community's generous offer to provide school supplies, clothing, and even money for food. Thien compared our school to his former school, commenting, "[The school] is huge! At my old school, everyone knew everyone." On Thien's last day, his classmates threw him a surprise party. He exclaimed, "I felt special because [Millbrook teachers and students] showed me that they really care."

With a total of sixteen people living under one roof, I was able to experience more than just the traditional Vietnamese extended family life. It was great to *really* get to know my cousins for the first time. Needless to say, Nhi and Thien were glad to go back home and be reunited with their friends. However, they greatly appreciate the warm welcome given to them by the Millbrook community, and are looking forward to a return trip back to Raleigh!

## An Outpouring of Help

By Alaina Alevizatos and Cristina Chenlo

Hurricane Katrina viciously raided the coastlines of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana on August 29, 2005 and left countless areas in total devastation. Millions of homeowners were forced to evacuate and were clueless as to whether or not their homes would withstand Katrina's wrath. The Red Cross, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), and other major organizations have raised millions of dollars to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina. In addition to those efforts, various Millbrook organizations have taken matters into their own hands to help with the relief endeavor. During the September 9th football game against Northern Durham, the National Honor Society and Junior Class Council sold raffle tickets for prizes that included gas cards and gift certificates to restaurants. The total revenue from selling the raffle tickets came to a grand total of \$500. Millbrook junior Andrew Frasch donated \$10 to the relief effort. When asked why he felt compelled to donate five times the cost of one raffle ticket, he said, "I feel sorry for every person who was affected by Hurricane Katrina... I think \$10 is the least that I can do to help." In conjunction, the SGA (Student Government Association) and FCCLA (Family,

Career and Community Leaders of America) collected money by having students give donations in each of their classes. Teachers collected donations during the week of September 19th. The total amount of money received surpassed \$4,000.

While the American people fervently contributed to Katrina survivors, many of them wondered if other countries would offer aid to the United States, especially after the relief efforts that our country initiated for the recent Tsunami victims. Surprisingly for many, the U.S. received an extraordinary international outpouring of relief supplies. Included were blankets from Egypt, baby food from Israel, tents from Russia, school supplies from Denmark, generators from China, rice from Thailand, and bottled water and detergent from Tunisia. This is definitely a reverse situation to the one to which we are usually accustomed!

It is astounding to see how our school and nation have come together to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina in the past few weeks. It is also remarkable that so many foreign countries sent aid. It appears that during times of tragedy and desperation, if everyone is willing to put aside their troubles to be a part of something much greater, positive results can truly be achieved.

