



40 Years of Vietnamese American Experiences
35 Years of Community Service

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Vietnamese Americans Launch Largest Advocacy Effort Ever to Link Human Rights to Expanded Trade with Vietnam

Washington, D.C. – Well over one thousand Vietnamese American advocates from 30 states will convene in the national capital for four days of advocacy. They will be joined by scores of fellow advocates from seven other countries and numerous Americans who served in the Vietnam War.

- **Congressional Hearing – June 17:** The House Global Human Rights Subcommittee will convene the hearing on “Human Rights Abuses by Vietnamese Authorities.” Location: 2255 Rayburn Building (second floor), 2pm – 5pm.
- **Vietnam Advocacy Day – June 18:** Delegations of advocates will meet with some 150 members of the U.S. Congress and/or their legislative staffers to call for making expanded trade and security cooperation with Vietnam contingent upon substantial improvements in human rights by the Vietnamese government.
- **40 Years Anniversary Commemoration at the Kennedy Center – June 19:** BPSOS will present *Our Journey to Freedom*, a fusion of American and Vietnamese performing arts, to say “Thank You!” to America, the free world, and the American and Vietnamese service men and women who defended freedom in South Vietnam.
- **Vietnamese-American Leadership Summit – June 19 & 20:** The next generation of Vietnamese American leaders will discuss joint strategies and action plans for community development in the political, business and social arenas.
- **Heritage Banquet – June 20:** A celebration of the Vietnamese-American community’s history and a chance to honor exemplary civic, community, and business leaders.

To raise public awareness about this advocacy effort, Vietnamese American riders started on Memorial Day a 21-days coast-to-coast trek from Oceanside, California to Washington DC, symbolizing the heroic journey of Vietnamese boat people from Communist shores to American freedom. They received a rousing welcome at the Lincoln Memorial last Saturday, June 14.

“This year marks four decades of the Vietnamese diaspora. As former refugees, we take this opportunity to thank all those who gave us freedom and a future; at the same time we do not forget those left behind and will continue to fight for the liberty and human dignity of 93 million Vietnamese in our former homeland,” said Dr. Nguyen Dinh Thang, CEO & President of BPSOS.

Boat People SOS is a national Vietnamese-American non-profit with operations in eight U.S. cities and three Asian countries. Over its 35 years of operation, the organization has rescued and/or assisted some 150,000 refugees and victims of human trafficking from Vietnam. The above activities are coordinated jointly with Coalition for a Free and Democratic Vietnam and Vietnamese American Leadership Summit.