



Sponsored by Veterans For Peace

# \$500 Prize!

## Student Essay Contest

Essays must relate to the exhibit *Waging Peace in Vietnam: U.S. Soldiers and Veterans Who Opposed the War* on display at the UW Oshkosh Polk Library Lobby April 2 to April 17.

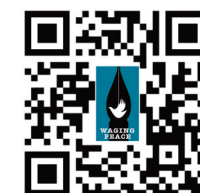
The theme of the essay is: "What the exhibit means to me and lessons for today." Essay must be between 500 and 650 words.

UW Oshkosh students should submit essays electronically to [luederm@uwosh.edu](mailto:luederm@uwosh.edu)

The guest judge will be Ronald L. Haeberle, the U.S. Army photographer who turned American public opinion against the war with his photographs of the My Lai Massacre.

**Deadline: April 24, 2024**

**Waging Peace in Vietnam**  
[www.WagingPeaceInVietnam.com](http://www.WagingPeaceInVietnam.com)



"While on a trail, I approached a group of noncombatants who were surrounded by soldiers. I thought the soldiers were there to interrogate the noncombatants. I yelled, 'Hold it!' and shot my photo. As I walked away, I heard M-16s open up with full automatic fire. From the corner of my eye, I saw bodies falling, but I didn't turn to look."  
—Ron Haeberle

*"The photographs were like dynamite. They horrified the nation. And the tide of public opinion began to turn against the war."*

—Seymour Hersh, Investigative Journalist

## My Lai: A Massacre Took 504 Souls, and Shook the World

On March 16, 1968, 105 members of Charlie Company, United States' First Battalion 20th Infantry Regiment, descended into the village of My Lai and nearby hamlets in Quang Ngai Province on a search and destroy mission to kill members of the Viet Cong. The only people to be found were noncombatants: elderly people, women and children.

Nevertheless, the soldiers killed 504 civilians in a four-hour massacre that remains one of the most brutal and notorious in U.S. history.

For more than a year the Army managed to conceal information about the massacre, but all of that changed with the publication in late 1969 of photographs by former Army photographer Ronald L. Haeberle.

More than 50 years later it is still hard to fathom what happened at My Lai, though much has been written. With this exhibit, we hope to spark discussion and teaching about real heroism and the power of images to prick the public's conscience in times of war.

All 19 of Ron Haeberle's photographs are on display for the first time in this exhibit.