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### **AMCHAM VIETNAM WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND ITS SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO VIETNAM AS IT CELEBRATES UNIFICATION.**

Ho Chi Minh City, April 27, 2025 – Last night, as part of the anniversary celebrations, Vietnamese crowds watched the army march down Le Loi Boulevard — the army of one country— their country. Throughout the crowd were red shirts with single yellow stars and toddlers waving the national flag. The people seemed happy, carefree, and proud of their country.

Fifty years after the end of the war, Vietnam is peaceful, increasingly prosperous, and unified.

It achieved this unity by focusing on what unites rather than what divides; on a shared history, culture, and country; a common desire for prosperity, and a stake in the future.

I will never forget an AmCham luncheon in 2002 featuring Le Van Bang, then Vietnam's ambassador to the United States. I told him that when searching the term "Vietnam" in English, most of the results were about the war, whereas a Vietnamese-language search about the United States, almost never mentioned it. I asked if it meant that the Vietnamese had largely forgotten the war.

He assured me they hadn't — that it was not a question of remembering or forgetting; it was a question of focus. Vietnam had chosen to focus on the future.

This focus on the future - and the common desire for prosperity - has not only fostered unity within Vietnam but also contributed to the reconciliation between Vietnam and the United States. There is no greater example of pursuing mutual benefit than a commercial transaction. Commerce was the wedge that opened the door for all other elements of the U.S.-Vietnam relationship, laying the foundation for one of the great foreign relations success stories of the modern era.

AmCham Vietnam played a significant role in this rapprochement. Even before its founding in 1994, our founders actively pushed for the lifting of the embargo and the normalization of relations. Once established, AmCham played a key role in negotiating various free trade agreements, which served as models for Vietnam's future trade agreements and, together, made a major contribution to its prosperity.

So, part of this 50th anniversary is a celebration of the cohesion Vietnam has achieved since the war. It is a story of looking forward and focusing on shared interests, both domestically and internationally.

But another part of this anniversary is about looking back. And in looking back, all parties to the conflict share something as well: a common humanity. All have known what it is to grieve fallen sons, brothers,



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fathers, and husbands. All know the feeling of respect for extreme bravery and sacrifice. All sides understand the urge to honor the fallen, because that is the only currency we possess to repay the debt for the ultimate sacrifice.

Over the past 50 years, recognition of and respect for this shared humanity — not only on a country-to-country level, but particularly between the veterans of our two countries — have been a foundation of our reconciliation journey.

We humans are social beings; we thrive by cooperating toward mutually beneficial ends. As we reflect on the 50 years that have transpired since the end of the war, let us celebrate the peace and prosperity that blossom by recognizing our common humanity and focusing on shared interests.

And most importantly, for this holiday, let us congratulate a unified Vietnam.



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### ABOUT US:

*AmCham Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City's long standing mission is to promote trade and investment ties between the United States and Vietnam and serve as the voice of American business in Vietnam. With more than 550 corporate and 2500 individual members, AmCham is one of the largest business associations in Vietnam.*

*AmCham Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City's vision is to be the most influential, strategic, dynamic business associations in Vietnam that drives innovation and sustainable growth and helps our members succeed. AmCham is a diverse, inclusive business association and we welcome American, Vietnamese, and international companies that share our interest in enabling a fair, transparent, predictable, and efficient regulatory environment. We strive to be a community you want to join.*

*AmCham Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City enables professional networking, business intelligence, and advocacy through events and sectoral committees such as Capital Markets and Financial Services; Digital Economy and Technology; ESG; Food & Beverages; Healthcare; Manufacturing.*

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