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### Medal of Friendship awarded to Virginia B. Foote

Ms. Virginia B. Foote, Co-Founder and President of the U.S.-Vietnam Trade Council, today received the Medal of Friendship of Vietnam. Called a “matchmaker” for the U.S. - Vietnam relations, for nearly 20 years Ms. Foote has worked to help establish full normalization between the two countries. For that work, the President of Vietnam awarded the Medal. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister

Pham Gia Khiem present the medal at a conferring ceremony July 26<sup>th</sup> 2007 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Since 1988, Ms. Foote has worked closely with U.S. Government and Congress, the Vietnamese Government and National Assembly, U.S. and Vietnamese companies, and other interest groups such as veteran, foreign policy, universities, human rights associations, and NGOs to help build full relations between the two countries and to provide technical assistance to Vietnam. Ms. Foote has worked on the wide range of bilateral subjects such as the POW/MIA, immigration and other war legacy issues, diplomatic normalization, political issues, the Bilateral Trade Agreement, accession to the WTO, and in 2006 chaired the U.S. Business Coalitions for APEC and PNTR.

In 1989, under the Washington based International Center, the U.S.-Vietnam Trade Council was founded at the initiative of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and Ambassador William H. Sullivan to work towards building a new post-war relationship between the U.S. and Vietnam. Ambassador Sullivan and Ms. Virginia B. Foote co-founded the USVTC and its educational affiliate, the U.S.-Vietnam Trade Council Education Forum. In January 2005, the USVTC also affiliated with the US- ASEAN Business Council and Virginia B. Foote served as Executive Vice President of the ASEAN Council from January 2005 until March 2007.

Currently, in addition to her ongoing role as President of USVTC-EF, in March 2007 Ms. Foote also became President and Partner of Vietnam Partners, a boutique investment bank focused exclusively on Vietnam.

For earlier efforts to improve the U.S.-Vietnam relationship, Ms. Foote received U.S. Ambassador Pete Peterson’s Award for Citizen Diplomacy in 1999.

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