



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Institute for Peace & Conflict

December 14, 2020

Texas Sunset Commission
Austin, Texas

Dear Members of the Texas Sunset Commission:

I am writing in support of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission (THGC) and the incredible work that they are doing in bringing the issues of genocide to the youth of Texas. As a history professor who teaches elements of the Holocaust and Genocide to hundreds of college students each year, I am pleased to report that their understanding of these important issues are because of the existence of the THGC.

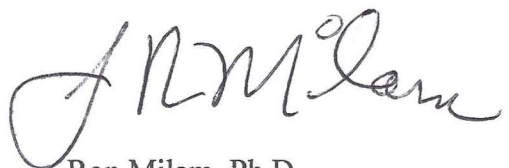
I was privileged to accompany Mr. Paul Allen Hunton, Director of *Narratives of Modern Genocide*, on his trip to Vietnam and Cambodia in the summer of 2018. Our Texas Tech students participated in the making of the film as we toured the Ba Chuc Village of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam where the Khmer Rouge massacred 3,157 women and children in 1978. Then we traveled to Phnom Penh, Cambodia and toured the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum where Pol Pot interrogated, tortured, then transported over 20,000 Cambodian citizens to the Choeung Ek Killing Fields where they were executed. The impact of this educational experience for our students was immeasurable, and I know from their comments that they will teach this experience to their students in their classrooms in the foreseeable future. Thank you to the THGC for their sponsorship of this important documentary.

I also was honored to write the foreword to the book *Texas Liberators* about the Texas men who liberated the concentration and death camps during the Holocaust. The stories of these men and their heroic efforts in freeing Jews from the horrendous prisons are used by myself and my colleagues in our courses on World War II and in military history classes. The THGC is to be commended for its sponsorship of this project and for having the foresight to expand the project into the Texas high schools.

As someone who has been involved with the THGC on an academic level, I believe their existence will make a huge difference in the way that students understand man's inhumanity to man, and that as the next generation of leaders, they will do their best to not repeat the

mistakes of my generation. It is a wonderful commission that needs to continue its work for the sake of Texas students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Milam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being significantly larger and more stylized than the others.

Ron Milam, Ph.D.

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