



## VOC Hosts New Vietnam Exhibit, Senator Tom Cotton



*VOC President and CEO Dr. Eric Patterson and Viet American Foundation leaders conduct the exhibit ribbon cutting.*

On January 18, the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (VOC) proudly welcomed the Viet American Foundation to celebrate the official opening of our new temporary museum gallery on Vietnam's enduring fight for freedom against communism. Entitled "The Truth" the exhibit explores the communist takeover of the country, the brave Vietnamese who fought for freedom, and the ongoing oppression by the communist regime. The exhibit was curated by the Viet American Foundation.



*Museum visitors at the exhibit opening.*

### Save the Date

VOC's next temporary exhibit will be "Operation Pedro Pan," America's mission to save Cuban children from communism. The exhibit will be on display from June-December 2025.

On April 2, VOC and Hillsdale College hosted a book signing and discussion with Senator Tom Cotton on his must-read *Seven Things You Can't Say About China*. He spoke on how deeply the Chinese Communist Party has infiltrated America, how China persecutes Christians and commits genocide against religious and ethnic minorities, the alarming rise of China's armed forces and nuclear arsenal, and the danger our children face from China's influence on Hollywood, the NBA, TikTok, and so much more.



# Educating the Next Generation

This year to date, VOC has educated over 450 students and trained 1,145 teachers on the history and horrors of communism. We host student groups for museum tours and presentations by experts and witnesses of communism as well as conduct teacher seminars both in person and online.

On March 11, the *Crucial Communism Teaching Act* was introduced in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. This bill makes curricular materials available through VOC to help educate high school students about the dangers of communism, and how such systems are contrary to the founding principles of freedom and democracy that we cherish in the United States.

Between the fourth edition of VOC's high school curriculum, *Communism: Its Ideology, Its History, and Its Legacy*, our free online advanced curriculum, teacher certification course, *Witness Project* documentary series, *Ten Great Speeches Against Communism* textbook, and the Victims of Communism Museum in Washington, D.C., we are proud to offer educational resources for teachers and students to study the criminal past and ongoing tyranny of communism.



VOC Chairman Dr. Elizabeth Spalding presents to The Heritage Foundation's spring intern class.



Students interact with the museum *Witness Project* exhibit which prompts them to imagine life under communism.



Students from Impact 360 tour the museum galleries and receive a lecture/Q&A with our team.



A student from Westminster Christian School admires *The Gulag Collection*, 50 paintings by Ukrainian artist and Gulag survivor Nikolai Getman.



# Partnerships with Key Allies



On March 25, VOC hosted the Baltic Foreign Ministers for a discussion on Baltic security, Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine, and the transatlantic alliance.



On February 25, VOC's Dr. Patterson met with Romanian Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu in Bucharest to discuss VOC resources.



On March 13, Hungarian State Secretary for National Policy Lőrinc Nacsa toured the VOC Museum, exploring exhibits on Cardinal József Mindszenty and the 1956 Hungarian Freedom Fighters.



On March 4, VOC, with the Union of Victims' Associations of Communist Tyranny (UOKG), held a lecture and discussion on East German forced labor. Peter Keup, former GDR political prisoner and distinguished research fellow at UOKG, presented the findings.



At the International Religious Freedom Summit on February 4, VOC's Dr. Adrian Zenz, took center stage to speak on a panel exploring the crimes of the Chinese Communist Party and Beijing's attack on religious freedom.



On February 3, VOC hosted a fireside chat featuring Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone in partnership with the Benedict XVI Institute and the International Religious Freedom Summit.

# Courtois Awarded Medal of Freedom at PEMC

VOC was proud to present the 2024 Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom to Professor Stéphane Courtois, renowned historian and co-author of the *Black Book of Communism*, at the Platform for European Memory and Conscience (PEMC) International Conference “Political Terror in Historical Perspective: Origins and Consequences” in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The award was presented by VOC Chairman Dr. Elizabeth Spalding, alongside PEMC President Dr. Marek Mutor and Dr. Evelina Kelbecheva, Professor of History at the American University in Bulgaria.

“It is a true honor to award Professor Courtois the Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom, our institute’s highest accolade,” said Dr. Eric Patterson, President and CEO of VOC. “Professor Courtois’ lifelong scholarly commitment to exposing the crimes of Marxism has fundamentally shaped the free world’s understanding of communism not just as abhorrent and oppressive, but as the deadliest ideology the world has ever known.”

Born in France in 1947, Courtois was indoctrinated into the Maoist Marxist–Leninist movement, working with the Vive Communism organization at an early age. Upon realizing the false promise of Marxism, however, Courtois quickly became one of the preeminent scholars of communism as the ideology began sweeping across the world. His magnum opus, *The Black Book of Communism*, is the authoritative scholarly publication on the crimes of communism. Working with a team of scholars after the fall of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc regimes, Courtois spent thousands of hours scouring the recently opened archives to reveal the “actual, practical accomplishments of communism around the world: terror, torture, famine, mass deportations, and massacres.” Working with the regime’s own evidence, the book became an international bestseller, as it was the first peer-reviewed attempt to catalog and analyze the crimes of communism. It resulted in an astonishing and harrowing discovery—100 million people killed by communist regimes around the world.

Today, Professor Courtois continues tirelessly to shed light on the crimes of communism through his work as the Director of Research at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. He remains a steadfast advocate for the victims of communism.



Dr. Elizabeth Spalding presents the Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom to Professor Stéphane Courtois.



Participants of the 2025 PEMC International Conference.



Marek Mutor, Stéphane Courtois, and Elizabeth Spalding.



# Expansion of VOC Board of Trustees



VOC announces the election of Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett and Andrea Lauer Rice to its Board of Trustees. Dr. Lantos Swett serves as President of the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice, established in 2008 to continue the legacy of her father, the late Congressman Tom Lantos, who served as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and was the only Holocaust survivor ever elected to the US Congress. Andrea Lauer Rice has served as President of the Hungarian American Coalition, the community's largest umbrella organization, for the past eight years, and is co-founder of Memory Project, an award-winning collection of 150 video-based life histories of Hungarians who immigrated to the US.

## Thank You to Our Supporters!

Our work is made possible by the generosity of our donors who value our mission. We are grateful for your support, which enables us to educate the next generation about the detriments of communism.

*We especially recognize the following members of our Victims of Communism Museum Remembrance Society who have given a leadership gift in the past quarter.*

### **Pillars of Memory**

Amb. Aldona Z. Woś and Mr. Louis DeJoy

### **Flames of Liberty**

Mr. Maximo Alvarez  
Dr. and Mrs. Ed and Linda Feulner  
Mr. Paul Schultheis  
Mr. Thomas L. Throop

### **Voices for Freedom**

Mr. and Mrs. Henry and Peggy Miyares  
Drs. Omar and Josefina Vento

*For more information about the VOC Museum Remembrance Society and to join, visit [victimsofcommunism.org/remembrance-society](https://victimsofcommunism.org/remembrance-society).*