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**Honor Society of Nursing takes a lead role
 in the development of historic documentary**



INDIANAPOLIS — They knew where they were going, but they had no idea what they were going to. For the first time, Vietnam nurses reveal the horrors they witnessed, the care they provided and the emotional scars they earned as nurses in Vietnam.

WE tv, the only cable network dedicated to helping women connect to one another and the world around them, has announced the premier of “Vietnam Nurses with Dana Delany,” a documentary about the young American nurses sent halfway around the world to serve in horrific and dangerous conditions. Delany, who played Army nurse Colleen McMurphy on ABC-TV’s “China Beach,” narrates the documentary.

The documentary, produced by Creative Street Entertainment, premieres at 10 p.m. EDT, Fri., Aug. 18, 2006, with limited commercial interruption. An encore presentation airs the next evening at 6 p.m. EDT, Sat., Aug. 19, 2006.

The documentary is based on the forthcoming book *The Fine Art of Nursing Care: Lessons in Healing from War and Art*, by Margaret Carson, RN, PhD and Linda Finke, RN, PhD. The honor society will publish the book in spring 2007. Margaret Carson, lead author and honor society member, interviewed 172 nurses who served in Vietnam. She uncovered an immense reservoir of buried pain and post-traumatic stress disorder.

“Sigma Theta Tau was instrumental in bringing the production of this dramatic story to the public,” said Dave Smith, the director of the documentary and chairman of Creative Street Entertainment. “They supported the effort from the beginning, brought us together with the authors, made possible the original demonstration piece that sold the concept and will head the educational distribution of the DVD version of the show.”

“We knew this was a significant story, not only for nursing, but for American history,” said Nancy Dickenson-Hazard, RN, MSN, FAAN, chief executive officer of the honor society. “Many of these nurses came home from the war, then went right to work and had families. It wasn’t until 20 years later when their children were grown and the house was empty that the trauma of what they experienced in Vietnam came to the surface. The book and documentary reveal their anguish and show how many of these nursing heroes are only now working through the trauma.”

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In the book, Carson and Finke share how nurses who served in Vietnam signed up under an economic draft in which the military paid for nursing school or continuing education in exchange for enlisting. Recruiters told the nurses they would not be called to Vietnam. But after the Tet Offensive, the Army called up all nurses on active duty. The nurses were totally unprepared for what they would see and experience. Literally thrown into the role, often under fire and always in danger, these young women saved the lives of tens of thousands of soldiers and comforted thousands more who died from their wounds.

This documentary was made possible in part through the generous support of Johnson & Johnson. In 2002, Johnson & Johnson developed a nationwide campaign in support of the nursing profession entitled "The Campaign for Nursing's Future." Working with health care leaders and nursing organizations, such as Sigma Theta Tau International, the National Student Nurses Association, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the company hopes to bring more people into nursing, develop more nurse educators and retain the talent already in the profession.

For more information or to schedule an interview with the authors or producers, please contact Leslie Flowers, 317.828.6925, or leslieflowers@sbcglobal.net.

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The Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to improve the health of people worldwide through leadership and scholarship in practice, education and research. Founded in 1922, the Honor Society of Nursing has inducted more than 345,000 members. Members are active in more than 113 countries and include practicing nurses, instructors, researchers, policymakers, entrepreneurs and others. The society's 446 chapters are located at 535 institutions of higher education throughout the United States, as well as in Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Ghana, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, Pakistan, South Africa, Swaziland, Sweden, Taiwan and Tanzania. More information about the society can be found online at www.nursingsociety.org