

“Namastè”

I lived in Viet-Nam 1968-70. I was married to Jon Merkel who was an Air America pilot KIA flying in the PDJ Luang Prabang Laos 18 Feb 70. I returned to Texas a CIA widow with PTSD.

We loved SEA & had planned to stay and raise a family. Living in the "zone of silence," I have written Z.O.S. as a reflection of my SEA experiences - burning a Buddhist body; snorkeling of Con Son Island where tiger cages were; teaching at Phoenix Study Group; packing to return home when a friend's child received a snake bite; being surreptitiously interviewed returning stateside, seeing a NYT headlines: CIA PILOT KILLED FIRST CASUALTY LAIN OF JARS; responding to the journalist asking if I knew the pilot: He was a friend; visiting the VN Wall where Jon's name isn't included each year, with Hockaday students; volunteering at the VA, creating short movies of war stories.

— *Kay, Dallas, Texas*