

Parthenon
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War hero to speak, compare foreign affairs—past, present

By Chris Miller
Student Life Editor

A former Roman Catholic chaplain who fasted for 47 days last fall to protest American intervention in Nicaragua will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday in Corbly Hall 105.

Charles J. Liteky — who won a Congressional Medal of Honor during the war in Vietnam for saving the 20 lives, but returned the medal last summer saying it had "grown to be a shame to me" — will talk about the parallels between Nicaragua and Vietnam.



Liteky

Last fall, Liteky and Vietnam veterans Brian Willson and George Mizo along with Duncan Murphy, a veteran of World War II, gained national attention during their water-only fast Sept. 1-Oct. 17 on the Capitol steps in Washington, D.C.

Congressman Nick J. Rahall (D-Va.) visited the four during their fast and showed them a letter he had sent to the president, suggesting Reagan to meet with the veterans to share views

on U.S. military involvement in Nicaragua.

The letter, dated Oct. 4, said the four have "unique perspectives in regard to matters of war. Their willingness to give their lives in protest of U.S. policies in Nicaragua (by fasting) indicates a rare conviction of belief that deserves your attention."

The veterans themselves drafted a letter dated Sept. 15 stating, "We are praying for a change in the hearts and minds of those who act in complicity with our government's policies of death. We are praying for a new commitment for peace, which might escalate into an unstoppable, non-violent resistance to this illegal, immoral and insane war."

July 29, Liteky returned his Medal of Honor, the country's highest military award, by a large envelope with the medal enclosed at the base of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington.

The outside of the envelope read in part: "The medal was renounced...in protest of the U.S. intervention in Central America, seen by the former holder of this medal as another Vietnam."

Liteky's visit is sponsored by MAPS-UCAM and the state Central American Human Rights Coalition.