

# Vietnam War Commemoration Lecture Series



## The 1972 NVA Easter Offensive and the Battle of An Loc

***Presented by Dr. James H. Willbanks***

**May 12, 2022**

**Reception at 5:30 p.m. • Buffet Dinner at 6 p.m. • Presentation at 7 p.m.  
Riverfront Community Center • 123 S Esplanade St. • Leavenworth, KS 66048**

This 14th lecture of the series features Dr. James H. Willbanks, Professor Emeritus and former General of the Army George C. Marshall Chair of Military History at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and decorated Vietnam War Veteran. Willbanks will discuss how on March 30, 1972, the North Vietnamese Army launched a massive invasion of South Vietnam that included a total of more than 130,000 regular troops. The Nguyen Hue Offensive (as it is known in Vietnam) was targeted against Quang Tri in the north, Kontum in the Central Highlands, and An Loc in Military Region III. Willbanks will address the overall offensive with an emphasis on the fight in An Loc, a city just 65 miles from Saigon, where he was an advisor with a South Vietnamese infantry regiment during the battle.



Dr. James H. Willbanks retired from the faculty of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in 2018, after 26 years of service following over 23 years of active-duty service as an Infantry Officer in various assignments, to include a tour as an advisor with a South Vietnamese infantry regiment during the 1972 North Vietnamese Easter Offensive. While a member of the CGSC faculty, Willbanks served as the Director of the Department of Military History and as the General of the Army George C. Marshall Chair of Military History.

Dr. Willbanks is an honor graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and a graduate of the inaugural class of the School of Advanced Military Studies. He holds a B.A. in History from Texas A&M University, and a M.A. and Ph.D. in History from the University of Kansas. He is the author or editor of 20 publications on the Vietnam War and other topics in military history. Dr. Willbanks also served as a consultant to Ken Burns in the preparation of his 10-part documentary on the Vietnam War which aired on PBS in 2017.

His military awards and decorations include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with "V" and Oak Leaf Cluster, two Purple Hearts, and Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with two Silver Stars.

**Register/purchase tickets at [www.cgscfoundation.org/VL-220512](http://www.cgscfoundation.org/VL-220512)**

**Advanced tickets are \$30/person for the buffet and the presentation.**

**Doors open at 5:30 p.m. • Tickets available at the door for \$35/person**



*The Vietnam War Commemoration Lecture Series is presented by*



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