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A good friend of *Film & History* is Adrian Cronauer, a man whose “life” was captured in the Robin Williams/Barry Levinson film *Good Morning, Vietnam* (1987). Veteran, communications lawyer, POW/MIA expert, his varied career makes him the perfect keynote speaker for our conference on “War in Film, TV, and History.”

BIOGRAPHY

Adrian Cronauer

Former U.S. Air Force sergeant Adrian Cronauer co-authored the original story for the major motion picture, *Good Morning, Vietnam!* In that film, Cronauer was portrayed—loosely—by Robin Williams whose performance was nominated for an Academy Award. A subsequent special program on National Public Radio about the role of military radio in Vietnam earned Cronauer a 1992 Ohio State Award and two 1991 Gold Medals from the New York Radio Festival.

He is a life member of the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, the VFW and VietNow. He serves as a national officer of the Knights Templar, is an honorary Kentucky Colonel, and a member of the Australian Returned & Services League. Recently, he was awarded the Order of St. Maurice by the U.S. Infantry Reserve. He spends much of his spare time speaking throughout the country before veterans and military groups espousing patriotism and flag protection and averaging fifteen to twenty such engagements per year.

In 1992, he was invited to Australia to participate in the dedication of that country's Vietnam Forces National Memorial. While there, he emceed a four-hour, nationally televised, outdoor concert featuring Aussie entertainers who went to Vietnam during the 60's and 70's to entertain the troops from "Down Under."

A popular after-dinner speaker and lecturer, Cronauer periodically appears as a guest on radio and television talk shows, including NBC-TV's *Today*; the PBS series, *Freedom Speaks*; *Hennity & Colmes* on the Fox News Channel, and frequent appearances on ABC-TV's former late night talk show, *Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher*; also, numerous stints on NBC Radio's Jim Bohanan Show; and the Oliver North and G. Gordon Liddy radio programs. His commentaries have been featured in many major newspapers throughout the country and on the NPR Radio Network.

Previously a senior partner with the five-lawyer Washington DC firm of Burch & Cronauer, he is now Special Assistant to the Director of the Pentagon's POW/MIA Office. He received his Doctor of Law degree from the University of Pennsylvania, where he was Special Projects Editor of the Univ. of PA. Law Review. He also holds a

masters degree in Media Studies from the New School for Social Research in New York City; his undergraduate studies were at the University of Pittsburgh and the American University in Washington DC. He clerked at the Federal Communications Commission for Commissioner Patricia Diaz Dennis and was honored with the FCC's Special Service Award.

Cronauer's law practice concentrated in information and communications law and included extensive representation of radio stations, a satellite radio network, cable systems, and clients involved in newly emerging technologies including wireless cable and personal communications services. He was a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Federal Communications Law Journal and among his serious published works are *The Fairness Doctrine – A Solution In Search Of A Problem*, Federal Communications Law Journal, Oct. 1994; and *Copyright and Reproduction Rights*, Art & Design Magazine, July/Aug. 1993. He is a member of the Federal Communications Bar Assn., the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, and Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity.

He has served as a member of the Virginia Public Broadcasting Board, on the Arlington County (Virginia) Cable TV Advisory Committee, and the Board of Governors of the New School for Social Research in New York City. He served two terms as a trustee of the Virginia War Memorial and is a former member of the national board of the Armed Forces Broadcasters Association and the board of the National Vietnam & Gulf War Veterans Coalition.

Prior to turning to the law, Cronauer spent seven years in New York City voicing television and radio commercials. Before that, he owned his own advertising agency, managed a radio station, was program director of a television station, and a TV news anchorman. He has taught broadcasting at the university level and is the author of a textbook on radio & TV announcing, now in use at many colleges and universities.

He and his wife, the former Jeane Steppe, have two adult children and five grandchildren ranging in age from fifteen to nineteen.