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Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong announced the Hero of the People's Armed Forces award will be conferred posthumously on Dang Thuy Tram, a military doctor, for her outstanding achievements during the war.

Tram was the chief of the Duc Pho infirmary in the central Quang Ngai province and was killed in action 35 years ago in one of the fiercest battle fields in the American War.

Born in Hanoi on Nov. 26, 1942, Tram was the eldest child of an academic family. Her father was a surgeon and her mother a pharmacist. After graduating from the Hanoi University of Medicine in 1966, Tram volunteered to go to the battlefield in the south.

She arrived in Quang Ngai in March 1967 and was placed in charge of the Duc Pho infirmary. She was admitted to the Communist Party of Vietnam in September 1968.

Tram was killed in a gunbattle with US troop on June 22, 1970 while en route to the Mekong Delta from Quang Ngai.

The story of the heroic young doctor came back into the limelight recently after two of her diaries, which had been taken from the battlefield and kept by an American soldier for more than 35 years, were returned to her family.

The publication of her diaries in 2005 under the title "Diary of Dang Thuy Tram" was a poignant event which moved the hearts of millions of people both in Vietnam and abroad.

Reported by Lien Chau – Translated by Thu Thuy

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