

**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

390 City Hall
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April 6, 2007

Dear Community Members:

I have received a letter from the U.S. Ambassador to Thailand in response to my inquiry into the remains of the 211 bodies exhumed from Wat Tham Krabok. Per my request, the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok made inquiries into the transferring of the remains to their families. Though the organization holding the remains is not opposed to returning the remains, there are many obstacles preventing their transfer to the United States. These include lack of identification, lack of death certificates, and prohibitive shipping costs.

I want to assure you that I am committed to bringing a just solution to this tragedy. To that end, my office will take the Ambassador up on his offer to provide assistance. My office will take the lead in communicating and working with the US Embassy and the State Department. I will appoint a representative or assemble a delegation from Saint Paul with the goal of working with the U.S. Embassy and Thai authorities to find a suitable site in Thailand where the remains will be properly buried. This sacred site can serve as a memorial to this great tragedy. It will remind all that grave desecration is a human rights violation that cannot be tolerated.

Your hard work and commitment have brought awareness to this issue and the plight of the affected families. Although we cannot undo all of the pain and suffering this tragedy has caused, working together, we can give back the honor and respect that was taken from the deceased when their graves were desecrated.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Christopher B. Coleman in cursive.

Christopher B. Coleman
Mayor

Enclosure: Letter from Ambassador Ralph L. Boyce