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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Novelist, Vietnam War Vet to Speak on ‘Chicanos in Vietnam’ May 3 at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO – American Book Award winner and decorated Vietnam War veteran Charley Trujillo will talk about his life’s work and screen his documentary, “Soldados: Chicanos in Vietnam,” from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, May 3, in Chumash Auditorium at Cal Poly.

The documentary, based on Trujillo’s 1991 award-winning book of the same name, is the first film to recount the harrowing experiences of a generation of Mexican-American boys raised in the San Joaquin Valley whose first journey away from their rural hometown was to fight in war-torn Vietnam.

The book and documentary depict the profound changes the men experienced, returning to the U.S. with a new conception of themselves and their country — and of the particular challenges facing them as Chicanos.

Trujillo served in Vietnam as an infantry sergeant and was awarded the Purple Heart and a Bronze Star Medal. After his discharge he earned a bachelor’s degree from UC Berkeley and a master’s degree from San José State University.

He is also the author of “Dogs From Illusion” and is currently working on a video documentary about Tiburcio Vasquez, a legendary California bandit from the 1800s.

The public is invited to the free event, sponsored by Cal Poly’s College of Liberal Arts and Chicana Latina Faculty Staff Association. For more information, contact Professor Gloria Velasquez at 805-756-2992 or gvelasqu@calpoly.edu.

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