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Assignment #2

Instructor Escobar

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Out of the book," The Patriots" by Christian G. Appy , I chose three stories. These stories were; From Civil Rights to Antiwar, Free Fire Zone and Triage. I found that all three of these stories had the common thread of prejudice. The Vietnam War took place at a time when prejudice was an epidemic in this country and people of color were fighting for their rights as human beings. Whether here or there people were surrounded by prejudice.

I read about a young black man who was a navy veteran and had lost his kidney during his time of service who when he came back to this country was fatally shot in his hometown because he tried to use a white bathroom at a gas station. (pg.144) I do not know very much about war but it does not make sense to me to go to war to fight for people's freedom when people were denied that right here in this country. For example when there was a draft, whites and people who were wealthy were given special treatment and priority as to whether or not they actually had to go or not. They would be granted excuses such as illness or taking care of family. People who were uneducated or had health problems, basically people who were from lower socioeconomic groups were chosen to accept the draft. In order to get consideration you had to see a private doctor. Most of people could not afford to see a doctor but had real health problems but were sent to war regardless of their condition. Perhaps some of these people thought it sounded like a dignified way that they could earn a living because of their lack of education.

The medical treatment in Vietnam was also full of prejudice. For instance, if you were white you got treatment before innocent civilians. It was all about race and status not your injury. A Vietnamese man did not want to be treated because the people who were treating him were white and spat on the nurse in charge of him. (pg. 174) This was surprising to me because the fact that

she was helping him should have shown him that not all the U.S. citizens were bad but apparently even saving his life would not change his mind. A U.S. Soldier shot another U.S. soldier in a drunken rage and was given five years yet a soldier flying a helicopter who accidentally crashed it and survived was given a much grimmer sentence. (pg 160)

It is a tragedy to see so much destruction all caused by prejudices.

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