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The land we call free wasn't always this way, and in order to maintain peace and obtain what we Americans pride ourselves on, we needed a few brave souls who were willing to put their lives on the line. The following stories are about the people who had to endure the heartaches, the tough decisions and the courageous battles in order for us to live in peace and call ourselves Americans.

The north realized that winning the south was the ultimate goal for national unification. Many experienced the dangers surrounding the south. Many teenagers helped build the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The volunteer Youth Corp was founded in 1965, and it was they who helped build the trails in which to help the NVA move troops. The volunteers consisted of many teenagers who did whatever they could to help build. To me being able to just go out there, and build trails with so many dangerous situations really does take courage. Imagine eating whatever there is just to survive another day, and not knowing if it will be your last day on earth. To have many illnesses throughout the time of work, and seeing people you know just explode in front of you really does change your view in life. Having the heart to support your fellow soldiers, as well as the courage to know they might not come back is something I truly admire.

Reading "You Want Me to Start World War III" made me think that having to make tough decisions in part of war is just too hard for some, while others take the decision nonchalantly. People's lives are at stake with decisions that are made without thought. Sometimes you just need to stand up, and speak for what you actually think is right. Fullbright spoke up with his opinion, and not only did he seem like an enemy he was considered a traitor. I would have done the same just because bad decisions lead to bad consequences in which someone has to take the blame for, and I would rather have a decision that is made based on strong beliefs.

Reading what was happening was interesting, and I could only imagine the pain that was put on the POW. The human body can only take so much, and you have to respect all the POWs for enduring as much as they could to save the lives of others. I was surprised to have read that John McCain was an actual POW. Tiger cages, whips, and limestone were some cruel objects that were

used. I suppose any tactic that was used from either side was beneficial in order to get a leg up on the competition. Being imprisoned for such little crimes, and then tortured was hard for those who were punished. Then again in some of the stories it made the people who were being tortured come together and have more pride in what they really stood for. A lot of draft resisters were ridiculed just for not wanting to be involved in something they believed was wrong, unfortunately they suffered the consequences.

After reading about the tough decisions, and hardships that individuals had to endure it made me appreciate the air I breathe, the ground I walk on, and the freedom I have in this great country.

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