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The Guts and The Strength throughout the War :

The Guts of the Vietnam War. The theme that I chose shows in a way that one has the strength, bravery and courage to go into some part of the war with the knowledge and the possibility of never coming out of the war alive. What I mean by guts does not actually mean the gruesome guts as body parts, or guts everywhere from a wound coming from the war, it is to mean the war was full of courage and bravery from many people on many accounts. The people that I am going to be talking about had the courage and bravery to step out of their comfort zone, deal with something out of the ordinary and/or step up into a zone that may have been uncomfortable or deathly terrifying. Throughout the stories I have come across, whether it be a wife of a protester to an actual soldier themselves have shown some sort of guts. I believe they all had guts of some sort to take action in what they were doing or what they had to deal with throughout the Vietnam War and had a lot of bravery in the certain actions they took or had to deal with.

The stories that I chose and the people I found that showed some sort of "guts", bravery and strength are ones from Nguyen Thi Kim Chuy, a worker in the jungle of the Truong Son as a Youth Volunteer, Anne Morrison Welsh, the wife of a protester and had to deal with certain aftermaths of his choices and then Porter Halyburton, one of the prisoners of war.

Nguyen Thi Kim Chuy was a person I found that had a lot of guts and strength to keep trucking a long. Throughout her adventures and experiences she had to deal with some pretty intense things that I do not think I would be able to make it through after dealing with certain things. The fact she had to go through seeing people she knew get turned into "porridge" and not be able to tell the difference between any of them because they were so blown up after a bombing is pretty harsh. I find it very impressive to be able to keep pushing through having to see someone get as blown up as they did. Also the fact they would work to their end, and got all sorts of diseases and did not get any sleep what so ever is pretty

impressive. I give respect to how she was able to push through after getting bombed multiple times, seeing close ones get blown up, lose hair and have gotten no sleep what so ever. She showed guts and bravery in not giving up and fighting through what she had to do.

Another person I chose to represent the "guts of war" aspect would be Anne Morrison. She is the widow of the man who killed himself to protest the war. The fact that her husband was a person that felt very strongly about the war and that he killed himself thinking that it would have made an effect on the war that was happening is something so crazy to me and crazy to think about. I cannot imagine going on after knowing my husband killed himself for something that was ineffective and out of his control. This is something she has had to deal with and the fact that her children were fatherless to something that shouldn't have even happened. This story hit home for me and I do not know how she has been able to do it. I recently had a neighbor do something very idiotic and selfish to try and prove something that was out of his control, he shot his two young daughters and then himself to get back at my other neighbor for wanting a divorce. My neighbor now has to deal with this horrific issue and I do not know or understand how she is making it through life... To me it takes a lot of strength to keep going after something like this has happened to someone.

The last story I chose was from the section of "Prisoners of War." I came across the story of Porter Halyburton and found by the certain accounts he had to go through that he must have had a LOT of guts to get through what he had to deal with. Getting shot down and being a prisoner is one thing, but getting torture for years upon years is another. Reading what Porter went through was gruesome. The fact that he was able to push through and go through all of the tortures that he had to go through is just tremendous. He was put through hell and back but he was able to fight through it with bravery and strength. Something I found as a powerful statement that he said was "what if you can't kill yourself and they wont kill you?" The torture was so bad that you would have rather been dead, but he couldn't kill himself and they would not kill him, but torture him enough to be on the edge of death but not quite there. I just find this to put me in awe. I cannot imagine people being able to go through this tragic, terrifying, horrible time and then being able to talk about it.

The stories I chose made an impression on me and I realize after reading these accounts that I am a wimp. I thought I was tough and have had to go through really tough situations and dealt with things, but no...after reading these stories, I have it good, and I

give much respect for these people that had to go through such tough situations, and came out alive. They have Guts.

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