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Wayne Smith was a combat medic in the 9th Infantry Division from May 1969 to 1970. He was a black man from Providence, Rhode Island and at this point in time ~~cultures~~ were still very divided. The color of your skin determined your status. He talks of the racial separations in life and the neighborhoods. Wayne also talks of the soldier's communion off the battlefield and how it's hard to hang onto. His first experience with combat was at night. They were moving out to set up an ambush when they walked into an ambush set by the Vietnamese, the Vietnamese opened up on them. Guys were screaming and yelling for the medic. Four American soldiers were hit that night and the Americans could not get to a medevac until the next morning, he describes the soldiers "crying most of the night." in pain. On several occasions he risked his life to save the life of another. They called him "Captain Trip" for some of the risky things he did to get to a wounded soldier, any wounded American soldier. Mr. Smith say's " combat was horrible, but there was a beautiful side as well- the brother-hood between the black soldiers and the white soldiers and Hispanics and Native Americans." That is the turning point, when off the battlefield they are separate because of skin color and on the battlefield they are brothers, comrades, friends. In combat all that mattered was surviving together. " I never imagined I could be so close to men. I can honestly say that I felt closer to some of the people I served with in combat-of all races-then my own family."

Tom Corey is leading a delegation from Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). They go to Vietnam to share information with the Vietnamese about missing in action on both sides. Tom was also a soldier wounded in the line of duty on the second day of the Tet offensive in 1968. He was shot in the neck and paralyzed from the neck down, later getting only partial use of his arms. In 1993 he traveled to Vietnam to discuss American POW/MIAs. On the meeting it was brought to his attention that the Americans only come to ask about missing Americans and have little regard for the three thousand missing Vietnamese. That's how the Veterans Initiative started. They sent out letters to their memberships requesting that they turn over any personal items they may have taken off Vietnamese bodies during the war- photos, letters, anything. They also requested information regarding the grave sites of buried Vietnamese bodies. They got many maps from soldiers that drew

them from memory. The first trip back to Vietnam they had a map that led them right to a grave site. So far they have returned information to Vietnam on over eight thousand Vietnamese MIAs and they have used that information to recover somewhere near eight hundred people. They carried the information in brief cases any time they went to Vietnam as a sign of respect. In 1994, the first time they brought back the information on the MIAs, Tom met General Vo Thu, the president of the Veterans Association in Danang. As soon as he handed the briefcase to the General, he could not speak and started to weep. Later through the help of an interpreter he divulged his brother was one of the men missing in action and he had high hopes his body could be recovered to give him the proper farewell he deserved. On the very next trip there General Vo Thu was happy to see them and told Tom that they have found his missing brother. "Only relatives of the missing can understand what that's like." General Vo Thu can now close or end that chapter **in his life**. He can finally have peace. Tom Corey and his alliance have been able to help give an "ending" to many people's misery and pain on opposite sides of the world, who at one time spent twenty-something years to destroy each other.

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