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Part 1

I was intrigued by the story of Wayne Smith in Christian Appy's book, *Patriots; The Vietnam War Remembered from all Sides* (p362-366). It would seem all too simple to say Wayne Smith's turning point arrived when he returned to the United States after serving 18 months in Vietnam. Smith returned to what he described as "The Twilight Zone." He had an entire different view of his family, his friends, the values and culture of the United States. Smith no longer fit in, he had seen too much, and was unable and unwilling to return to the life he had left behind.

I would say his journey began when he touched down in Vietnam as a combat medic in the 9th Infantry Division in May 1969. Smith was on a mission of his own; to be recognized, feel part of a community, and to have people be proud of him.

Smith achieved his mission in Vietnam. Wayne Smith was the oldest male of 11 children and his father died when he was 10, and as I would expect, he relished the camaraderie with the U.S. soldiers, commenting that he "never imagined he could be so close to men" (p363). I think performing a tracheotomy in the wild, and keeping a lid on a sucking chest wound, was the turning point for Wayne Smith. That kind of crazy medicine earned him the nickname "Captain Trip" (p364). Smith was recognized and was part of a community.

Smith seemed open and ready for the different adventures Vietnam held for him. He offered a refreshingly honest view about the challenges he faced as a soldier; the "blood on his hands" and how he wanted to "kill the enemy" (p365). The trickery of a U.S. Captain to show a higher body count by counting "four different body parts as four kills," inflating numbers to receive a promotion (p365). Also, how he embraced the opportunity to work as a medic with the Vietnamese people in the villages and how proud he was of the work he did with them.

Wayne Smith was a good soldier.

Part 2

The path chosen by Beverly Gologorsky in Christian Appy's book,

Patriots; The Vietnam War Remembered from all Sides (p413-417) reads to me as a woman who seemed lost, and found roots in the opposition to the Vietnam war. Gologorsky's story introduction (P413) would falsely lead the reader to think the ending of war for her is when she gave birth to her daughter in 1973. I think her ending began on April 10, 1971.

After a chance meeting, she is introduced to some of the affluent, Columbia University students, and the movers and shakers (Tom Hayden, Carol Brightman, and Straughton Lynd) in the Vietnam protest movement. They were confident and optimistic that they would stop the war. Lacking a formal education and wealth, this environment gave Beverly Gologorsky the courage and strength to develop her gifts.

I think the Vietnam war protests provided Gologorsky the vehicle to pursue her passion of women's rights. Her ending began with the Women's March Against the Pentagon in April 1971; "In those days it was harder for women to disentangle themselves from their lives and come to Washington. ...that march was the first time I truly felt how strong women together might be, and how much strength we could give each other...It was one of the highest moments in my entire life" (p416).

Gologorsky stayed engaged with what was going on with the Vietnam war, but from the vantage point of how it affected the women. Twenty-four years after the U.S. troops left Vietnam, Beverly Gologorsky wrote a novel entitled *The Things We Do to Make It Home*; a story about what the wives and girlfriends endured when the soldiers returned from the war.

The ending for Beverly Gologorsky was actually a new beginning. 

With all the tragedy surrounding the Vietnam war, I found both of these stories to be inspiring. Wayne Smith and Beverly Gologorsky came from large, impoverished families, and they were both able to create lives of service.

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