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Assignment 1

Part one

The Story of Roger Donlon had the greatest impact on me. Roger Donlon was the first American to receive the Medal of Honor in the Vietnam War. Donlon was a Green Beret captain who commanded the Nam Dong Special Forces camp. What impacted me the most about this story is the actions that Donlon showed during a time of crises. In 1964, the Nam Dong camp was attacked by a reinforced Viet Cong battalion. It was a five hour battle but Donlon showed the courage that every person fighting for their life and country should show. Besides what his Medal of Honor citation says, Roger Donlon sounds believable. I know how hard it is to be fast pace in something and then try to relive it and tell about it afterwards, you always seem to forget something. Then there are things you can't forget and the fact that he was humble about the situation shows that he is sincere in what happened. Also there's the citation that said exactly what he did so that is trustworthy to me. Roger Donlon was real patriotic and I respect what he did for his team and his country.

Part two

The story that I chose for Part 2 is Ngo Vihn Long. I am using him for the first and second pieces of part two. Ngo Vihn Long's story disappointed me in the sense of confusion of America and how the French affected Vietnam. Long was a young boy that witnessed many traumatizing things from dead corpses in lakes and ponds, to his father being tortured and contradicting feelings of America. The French affected Long and the whole Vietnam civilization 'treated the Vietnamese like dirt' and his father still tried to teach him morals like don't hate the French people, but French colonial policy. His father also taught him about America and how it was a 'beautiful country' and a 'racially harmonious country'. Long wanted to learn English and go to this wonderful place that his father spoke of and then as he grew his father changed his opinion confusing Long. America siding with the French and eventually bringing harm to Vietnam by engaging in the war Changed Long's perspective of America which is disappointing to me because as America we should have continued to help and live up to are name instead of becoming the bully we were trying to help Vietnam protect themselves from.

I also found that Ngo Vihn Long's story had a positive message. Out of all the hardship he went through as a kid from seeing death and pain around his life, Long still managed to come out of the whole situation with knowledge and courage. He was home schooled by his father and even though the probability of him taking the high school graduation exam was slim; he got special permission in 1959 to take it. Only five percent of the students passed it and he got the highest score in South Vietnam. This ultimately led to his job of public relations person for the mapping of South Vietnam. Even though he learned that America wasn't the country he thought they were and quit the job to protest against the U.S. intervention and the Saigon government, he still managed to apply at Harvard University and got accepted. It shows that even though you can come from a place not exactly fit for success but overcome it and ultimately succeed.

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