



HST 195: History of Vietnam War F16 (Escobar 21065)

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Internet Testimonies

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Internet Testimonies

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, November 5, 2016, 3:50 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Internet Testimonies topic.

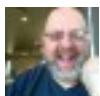
To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Internet Testimonies

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Re: Internet Testimonies

by Scott Woods - Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 11:57 AM

No matter the size of the files, number of hits, length of the article, blurb of the letter to the editor, all accounts are important to the telling of any point in history. Without multiple sources of information, we cannot make an educated decision on any one topic. What could be said about the Civil War if we had not just the victors retelling of the story but all of the participants telling of the story and how the days went by? With Vietnam and the loss of life now occurring to the aging Vets, we have to turn to these documentaries, stories in books like Appy's book, to PBS and we as an intellectual person need to pick the truth out of what information we are given. That is why these thing should be included.

You can't just rectify information from source that have their own agenda or light to shine on any one event. Like I said before, it is up to the view/reader to decide and intellectually pull the relevant pieces from the information they are gathering. Then we talk about it, talk and discuss what happened and come to a better understanding of what the material is trying to tell us. At the beginning of the class we were told that "I think" comments were not welcomed in our forum posts, yet I argue that a better understanding to history doesn't come along without an "I think" conversation between parties. Then the whole story can unfold.

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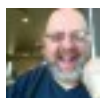
Re: Internet Testimonies

by Leslie Stockton - Thursday, November 10, 2016, 8:40 PM

I think that is why I felt it was important to include the *Vietnam veterans didn't expect this...* to be included in the Appy book. It showed that our military saw a wrong that needed to be righted. This was an extremely emotionally charged for me. This was a historic event that needed to be documented. How many times in life are we going to actually hear that our veterans were treated unfair and deserved a hero's welcome? Not a country filled with hate and bias because of bad press and politics . And having a large military family this was a great accomplishment. These men waited a long time to hear they were appreciated.

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Re: Internet Testimonies

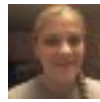
by Scott Woods - Friday, November 11, 2016, 12:11 PM

I agree. It's sad that our veterans came home to this kind of treatment. What's worse is that now they are all in their later years and the government that has told them that they would have their back, isn't. Just look at the VA. It's got a huge backlog of medical cases that takes up a whole floor

(or more) in Arlington (if I remember correct). We may walk down the streets today and say, "Thank you for your service," and mean it. Yet our government isn't doing the same and taking care of its own.

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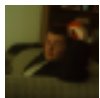
Re: Internet Testimonies

by Leslie Stockton - Friday, November 11, 2016, 8:28 PM

I couldn't agree more with you Scott. My father has PTSD, Agent Orange poisoning and had Malaria. The Veterans association should be ashamed of the back log of treatment and services. Their homecoming was disgusting but what our country continues to do them is even more disgraceful. The VA knew my father had diabetes for 6 years before he found out. The only way he did find out was with the help of a very generous senator releasing all of my father's service records to him. This has since been "rectified" but now my dad has a death sentence from health issues related to him not knowing about his diabetes. Sad day and age when we can't rely on quality health care for those how sacrificed for our country.

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The way back home

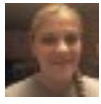
by Jimmy O'Neal - Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 8:40 PM

The stories of these veterans should be put down on paper. I don't necessarily think that it should be the Appy book but they do deserve to be heard. As for why we are still debating the treatment of these soldiers I think that it is ridiculous that anyone would deny that these soldiers were mistreated on their way home. The only reason I think we still argue about it to this day is because there are always conflicting statements. We have books and programs made by people that either agree or disagree that this happened, so anyone can look at these tidbits of information and draw their own conclusion on the matter. I believe that once all of the living veterans of Vietnam are gone then the history will be left for the historians to decide. They will have to go back to records that were gained from Vietnam vets and determine what gets told and what doesn't, in a sense.

As for how we can rectify the information that we have obtained through the PBS and other sources I believe that we need to show what really happened to our troops. No more demonizing what they did and what they felt they had to do, we should support them no matter what and make sure that their story is heard. If we can't do this then it will be a grave injustice to the men that wore those uniforms and fought for the freedom of the SV people.

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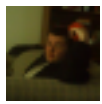
Re: The way back home

by Leslie Stockton - Thursday, November 10, 2016, 8:54 PM

I too find it an injustice to not have these men recognized for their sacrifice to our country and the freedoms that were fought for not only us the American people but also the South Vietnamese. Here we send fresh faced, naive, fresh out of high school kids to fight a war half way across the country, away from their families and have no respect for them as they return. A complete shame.

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Re: The way back home

by Jimmy O'Neal - Friday, November 11, 2016, 12:54 PM

Hi Leslie, one thing that really got me was how some people didn't even know that there was a war going on. Like in the second youtube video, when the man was sitting on the plane and no one wanted to sit next to him because of his uniform, the man sitting next to him that whole time didn't even know what Vietnam was or that there was a conflict going on over there. I find it completely ridiculous that some people could be so oblivious to the fact that these young men were going out and dying in a war that was broadcast on live television.

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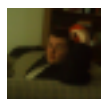
Re: The way back home

by Amber Gaboriault - Saturday, November 12, 2016, 10:57 PM

Hi Jimmy, I agree with you and Leslie, in the Appy book Anthony Lake feels guilt leaving Vietnam when asked. I imagine the guy on the airplane that was clueless added to the guilt of leaving. To know people are losing their lives and someone could not be aware would be hard.

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Re: The way back home

by Jimmy O'Neal - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 1:11 AM

Hi Amber, I would think that it would feel like a sharp punch to the gut. These men gave their lives and reputations to fight in a war that they really didn't understand, just to come home and have people be completely

oblivious to the fact that there was a war. I still can't believe that there were people that didn't know what was going on. I mean it was broadcast live on television for crying out loud, how could they not know. So I guess my only question is how could these people not know? Do you think it could have been for lack of electronics, like television? Or do you think that it was because of the lack of general interest? Either way its pretty disappointing.

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Re: The way back home

by Amber Gaboriault - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 9:52 PM

iScott, I am not sure how they could be oblivious to the situation, it seemed as though it was on TV in newspapers and riots I'm not sure how you could miss it. Another thought would be their age and access to television maybe they were older and didn't watch much TV or maybe they traveled a lot since the incident took place on an airplane maybe they travel a lot for work and didn't have time to keep up with the media. I believe there was a story in the Appy book about a young person who witnessed a riot and they said it was about Vietnam and she is well didn't know what they were talking about so it must've been lack of technology.

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Re: The way back home

by Scott Woods - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 3:58 PM

This makes me kind of wish for a recorder hall of history. Granted, it would be huge, but with today's technology we should be able to save all data on every historical moment ever. That way someone could just type in what they were looking for and there was all the accounts of people who were there. Granted, that is a huge project to take on. However, if we can map the human genome then we sure as heck could do this.

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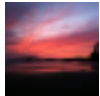
Re: The way back home

by Amber Gaboriault - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 9:47 PM

Hi Scott, that's a great idea, which made me think about the Vietnam Memorial wall. A website called "footnote" allows you to search anyone's name that is on the wall, it also allows you to add pictures, right comments, and tell stories of that person and their experiences in Vietnam. Friends and anyone that knew that person can read or add to the history, I feel this is a great idea and it's headed in the right direction to keep history available to the next generation.

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Impossible distinctions of fact/fiction

by Jennifer Wilson - Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 10:45 PM

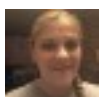
The video of the veterans receiving the homecoming they should have originally received, was extremely emotional to me. I wish I could've been there, or had been one to receive them when they came home. It disgusts me that soldiers were treated in such a way that they felt unwelcome. This video story would not be included in the Appy book. While this event was very special, it is not along the lines of what Appy put into his book.

The veteran in the second video, his story could be in the book. He tells of his personal experience upon coming home and how the horrible woman treated him. He does make a point about how 2/3 of veterans have already passed away. While impossible to collect every single story, the more information, the better a story unfolds. It is quite sad to think of the fact that eventually there will be nobody left to tell these stories, who actually lived through it.

I don't think we can rectify the information from so many different stories/versions/videos. It is impossible to be 100% behind one source. I, myself, am more inclined to believe the words from the mouths of those who have served rather than an opinion piece. I have taken a middle road stance between the AIM and PBS documentaries.

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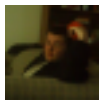
Re: Impossible distinctions of fact/fiction

by Leslie Stockton - Thursday, November 10, 2016, 8:48 PM

I also had a really hard time watching the videos. My father and step-father talk of the way things were when they came back and they mirror the treatment the other veterans discuss. The only reason I felt the first video was so important is because it showed, in my opinion, a very historic event. these men waited their entire lives to be welcomed home as heroes. This deserves to be recorded and taught about.

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Re: Impossible distinctions of fact/fiction

by Jimmy O'Neal - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 2:34 PM

Hi Jennifer, I agree that (Bull-hit)s story would be an excellent addition to the Appy book. It has the same feeling as that of any of the other stories in which we have read. His own personal recall of how he was treated when he returned home was very appalling. I also think that it was very sad that they felt the need to abandon their uniform because of all of the hateful attention that they were receiving because of Americas anti-war stance at the time.

Although, while I do agree that the collection of stories from these men would be great to have printed in a book would be great, I feel as though only a couple should make their way into a book like Patriots. My reason for this is because we don't want to have a segment like this to impede upon the points of the other stories. Do you think that something like this could happen if we were to include a whole segment of these stories in Patriots? Or do you think that it would fit in just fine?

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Hard to watch

by Leslie Stockton - Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 11:43 PM

While viewing the two you tube video's I found myself in tears. Being in a generation of Vietnam veterans my heart broke. My father, step-father and many an uncle went to Vietnam and saw combat I lived the heart wrenching truth to a lot of what these veterans are saying. I dont necessarily believe that the *Spitting on Vietnam Vets-Bulls-hit* should have been included in the book other than maybe a reference or see also in the index. While I agree with what he is saying he is asking for opinions and experiences. He is only talking about one particular incident and not on behalf of the Vietnam veteran as a whole. While the *Vietnam veterans never expected this* video is in whole a tribute to the way the American soldier was received back from Vietnam. With current military acknowledging the awful treatment when soldiers returned from war is incredible. This needs to be taught in history. It's not often that our military or government say that our veterans were wronged by the civilian population and in the media. What a remarkable way to honor these brave men and women. Videos like this is how we rectify the wrongs of the past by accepting that they actually happened.

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Re: Hard to watch

by Jennifer Wilson - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 10:53 AM

I, too, wonder if today's generation has any idea of the treatment of Veterans of the Vietnam War. When I was discussing this weeks topics with my husband, I mentioned some of the veterans accounts of their homecomings. I have two teenage daughters who were listening, and they were dismayed to hear the stories. When I asked them if they ever discussed the end of the Vietnam War in their history class, they hadn't. To be fair, maybe it is yet to come.

I love to see the parades, dinners, and (late) "thank you" celebrations for the Vietnam Vets. It is so heartwarming yet bittersweet to see the emotion on their faces, knowing what the recognition and love means to them. I only wish it hadn't come so late.

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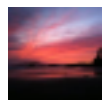
Re: Hard to watch

by Scott Woods - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 3:56 PM

I would like to think that our view point of veterans has changed. I'd point it to 9/11. It would seem that every single service member from WWII to the second Gulf War was given a turn of face. Meaning that though these Vietnam Vets where once spit upon, I'd hope now that they would be treated like every other Veteran. It boggles my mind when people treat other people badly. I typically don't understand it.

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Re: Hard to watch

by Jennifer Wilson - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 6:24 PM

I have not researched the subject, but from what I witness personally, and through the media, veterans today are mostly honored and revered. It is great that they know that they don't have to take their uniforms off or hide the fact that they were a veteran, like the Vietnam vets had to do. Or be subject to tirades from others who disagreed with the war.

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keeping history accurate

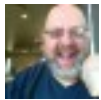
by Amber Gaboriault - Friday, November 11, 2016, 11:55 AM

The video "Vietnam Veterans never expected this" should be included in the Appy book. The video is a compilation of Veterans who were treated poorly or ignored upon returning home. Its not one persons opinion but many. With a whole Kentucky

base honoring Vietnam veterans and welcoming them home, even if many years later shows that they didn't receive an thanks upon returning home. while I also believe Bulls-Hit on Vietnam's experience it is just one compilation of an experience it could be less believable. I am unsure why we are still arguing about veterans being spat upon! After all the protests and actions against the war, why would spitting on a veteran be so unbelievable. in the Appy book J. Shaeffer recounts many encounters with the antiwar movement in Chicago. when Shaeffer was at the democratic convention the crowd would yell and scream call names such as pig just being part of the national guard.

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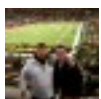
Re: keeping history accurate

by Scott Woods - Friday, November 11, 2016, 12:16 PM

The problem with writing history is the editing. Man, you'd love to get every account into one single book, but then that book would be over ten stories high at least. Ok, I'm exaggerating but it would be a very very large book. That is the problem the writer has to deal with. What is important and what isn't? Granted it's all important but how do you balance the scales so that you don't give a bias opinion. This is why we have multiple opinions. It's the view/reader to dig through all the information and piece the puzzle together. It's why I enjoy history so much is that it's like a jigsaw puzzle of time.

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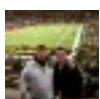
Re: keeping history accurate

by Mason Fisher - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 10:52 PM

I believe that we are still arguing if veterans were mistreated because we have yet to any physical proof. I say this but I fully believe they were mistreated due to the overwhelming amount of testimonial accounts that we have been shown. Also, the issue of mistreatment of our own Vietnam veterans is extremely important so that we do not repeat the same actions. On that note, I do believe that veterans today still deal with similar issues, maybe not as radical but they definitely experience hate and abuse to this day.

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Never forget

by Mason Fisher - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 10:59 AM

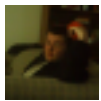
The stories in the videos should absolutely be included in the text. Listening to the Vietnam vets recount these situations absolutely breaks my heart and is wrong. All of the videos we have seen concerning the mistreatment of soldiers have explained how people misunderstood the war and had a lot of misconceptions about what went on. I think this heavily attributes to the backlash some people of the public treated the veterans so poorly.

People still argue whether these events actually happened or not because they are all personal accounts. Nothing was publicized about the poor treatment the soldiers received when they returned home. I am glad that in today's world, social media and the internet allow these men to share their stories to large audiences and let their voices be heard.

In the second video (Bull's-hit) the man making the video explains that $\frac{2}{3}$ of active combat veterans from the Vietnam war are no longer alive which was astonishing to me. I think it is very important to write things down, tell stories and publicize the things they want publicized so that people do not forget these things when all of the people involved have passed.

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Re: Never forget

by Jimmy O'Neal - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 2:05 PM

Hi Mason, while I agree that these stories do need to be put down on print do you think that we should include all of them? I do believe that we need to have stories like this to drive home the point that these soldiers were mistreated not only in Vietnam but by their own country as well, but I think that we should consider which stories are included. This is not for any reason other than to not seem redundant. We don't want to desensitize people to the fact that these men had to endure plenty of hardships, so I think that we should only include a few of the stories to really create an impact. What do you think about this? Would you say that this is a little to excessive or would you agree that including so many stories might have a negative impact?

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