

of the enemy, nor was it an accident. He was fatally shot in Vietnam by another American, Bob Harris. It was a senseless death, David should have returned to his family in Minnesota. At his Harris told the defense he had been drinking when David was shot. He showed no remorse and was sentenced to only 5 years. Soular visited David's mother twenty years after the war and at this meeting she discovered the truth behind her son's death. The military had lied to her and told her David was "accidentally shot." This is a huge deception, this woman sent her 19-year-old son off to war, to honorably fight for his country, and he came home in a body bag with a bogus explanation of his death. The government lied to his grieving family, where is the honor in that? I am ashamed such a thing would take place. I imagine the government was embarrassed that one of their men had taken the life of another, but I still see no reason why they covered up the truth. It was such a deceitful and disgraceful thing to do. It really is tragic that it took so long for this mother to know the truth behind the last moments of her son's life.

The last story I chose was that of Nguyen Duy (256-57). He was on the communist side of the war. He is also a highly regarded Vietnamese poet. We so much talk of who won the war, when in reality no one did. Nguyen states, "In the end, in every war, whoever won, the people always lost" (257). It is true, the people suffered, whether American or Vietnamese. He speaks of his poor but peaceful village, which he so badly wanted to return to. When he got the chance to go home, it had been destroyed, the beauty was gone. The war had ravaged the country and changed the Vietnamese society. Both Vietnamese and Americans lost so much in this war, I don't believe anyone won. In the end war does not really prove who is right or who is wrong, who won or who lost; it just proves who is left alive.

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