

94/100

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Assignment #1

nice intro
The book *Patriots: The Vietnam War remembered from all sides* has many heart wrenching stories. The subject material is a volatile subject in American History and one would expect for the accounts of the countless individuals touched by this event to produce visceral emotion. In the first part of the book "Introductions" many stories conjure up powerful emotions. The account of George Watkins is particularly poignant despite its seemingly simple relation. (The plight of a poor young man drafted and thrust into a war with little - ns

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training demands empathy) He stated early in his story "I knowed very little about Vietnam... I just knowed that we was fighting over there against Communism" (Appy p.22) This blatant honesty about his confusion over the overall mission lends him credibility because he was not putting on airs. He was confused and has no qualms about admitting it, which portrays him as honest. When referring to his enemy he stated "They's some of the most determined people I've ever run into. I don't hate them. They did what they had to do" (Appy p.23). His lack of animosity towards his enemy is commendable and makes his story stand out from the others in the section as did his simple, straight forward telling of an event that altered his entire being. It made one feel for this human being and his plight. It is Watkins simplicity that lends him credibility. Many other stories feel like they are being polished up to show the speaker in a better light. by who?
Watkins telling of the events that caused him to be blind and a double amputee for the rest of his life does not do this. Good analysis

While many stories in the book are uplifting or sad, some don't inspire such noble emotions. Many of the stories portray a level of ignorance, cruelty, and greed that are foul in every sense of the word. For the most part many stories in the second part of the book