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Turning Point On Monday, May 28, 2012 it will be Memorial Day. Many people will be barbecuing and spending time with their family, others will be spending their time mourning and celebrating the loss of loved ones in Service. Whatever it is we may be doing, we should all take time to think about the men and women who serve our country and who keep us free. When reading about the 'Turning Points' in the Vietnam War, the story 'Memorial Day 1968'(Patriots P.304) caught my eye because of how close Memorial Day is. Clark Dougan coauthor of The Vietnam Experience and editor for a university press tells about an experience he had, when he was just a young man in high school in Parma Heights, Ohio. Dougan recalls a man, or kid, by the name of Greg Fischer, "I played basketball, he played hockey. We didn't know each other very well, but because my last name began with D and his with F, we were in the same homeroom for three years" (Patriots P.304). When Dougan asked Fischer what he was going to do after high school, he said "Ah, I don't think I'm going to college. I'm thinking about going into the marines." (Patriots P.305) A year after attending college, Dougan came home and on Memorial Day 1968 "opened up the Cleveland Press and there was an auditorial on the front page with the title 'He was Only 19-Did You Know Him?'"(Patriots P.305)The article talked about Greg Fischer's death in Dong Ha, and a touching letter he had written to be opened in case he died. Dougan said, "I think that was the moment when 'Middle America' really turned against the war."(Patriots P.306). The Cleveland Press was a conservative group that supported the war, and even they were telling stories of American casualties. I truly agree with Dougan, in that this was the turning point of the war. Unless you were fighting in Vietnam, you could not truly see what was happening. So many people relied on press coverage to tell them what was going on. Press has such a massive influence on our lives, it is the place we look to see what is happening in the world, and thats what the Americans were doing during the Vietnam War. When they saw these horrible stories in newspapers and TV news coverage, they were shocked about how close to home it was, "ordinary kids" were being sent to Vietnam and killed(Patriots P.306). This uproar of the "working class communities" really started turning the events of the war(Patriots P.306). Americans were starting too feel like "Fuck it. Its not worth Greg Fischer's life or his buddies life."(Patriots P.306) Ending To me the end of the War was when Congress overturned the Nixon Veto, to remove all U.S. Activities in Vietnam. Without Congress voting to "end all U.S. activities anywhere in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia."(Patriots P.494) Even though the bill was vetoed by nixon it was again vetoed by Congress, Nixon would have continued to fight the war. In 1973 many people thought the war was over, "news organizations

quickly closed or downsized their Saigon offices and Vietnam fell off the front pages of newspapers and off the TV screen. College campuses grew quiet and the country turned inward, riveted by even more Watergate revelations and the slow-motion collapse of the Nixon presidency.”(Patriots P.493) Nixon deceptively continued to try to fight in Vietnam by using “civilians” most of who were discharged service men(Patriots P.493). He had them advise ARVN forces, and continue reconnaissance flights over North Vietnam. Nixon was purposely hiding his actions from the American public. The president is Commander and Chief one of their main duties is to control our military, but they are in office to represent the people. Nixon knew he was not doing this, so he concealed his continuation in Vietnam. Nixon could have continued even further if it was not for Congress stepping in and passing bills to end the war. This truly was an ending not just to a war but a terrible presidency.

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