

Eryne Grant HST 195 Joe Escobar 12 April 2014 Assignment 1 Part One The story that had the greatest effect on me in the book "Patriots" was the account of Roger Donlon. I found this story to be emotionally attached to me because of the way he humbly wrote about his time in Vietnam, his injuries, and his fellow soldiers. His quote at the beginning of the story read, "We were just babes in arms in every way." This really hit an emotional string with me because my own father, who passed away in May of 2013, was only 19 when he was drafted into Vietnam, and this is how I pictured him. I believed for Donlon ^{was} to be very reliable and believable in ~~regards to~~ his personal story of the war. I sensed a type of serenity and truthfulness through his account. He never used vulgar language, kept his stories to the point, and talked about everyone in a respectful manner. It takes a lot of courage to talk about your enemies in a respectful way, and I thought that by his doing so that he showed he was a great man. Also, as being the first man to receive the Medal of Honor in the war, I was reminded that he had plenty of courage to go around. I think his reliability gave him more credibility, but to a certain point. Yes, he did receive the Medal of Honor and was a respectable man, but he also may have upset or embarrassed about the situation. He may have forgotten a few details here and there, but I believe that his overall story was to the point and true. I never once doubted the authenticity of his overall story while reading it. Lastly, I was reminded of a quote in Herring's text that reminded me of this story. Kennedy said, "It is our offspring, we cannot abandon it, we cannot ignore its needs." I admit to not knowing much about politics or the Vietnam War, but this quote seemed to pinpoint the feelings I thought while reading this story. This quote was obviously related to the entire war in Vietnam and the relations in general, but I thought it could be fairly compared to the soldiers lives and dedication to the war as well. In a way, it was their offspring as well. They may not have wanted to fight it or be involved, but they could not abandon it or ignore its needs. They were all in once on foreign soil, and Donlon proved this. The courage and strength that he found was all for the greater good. Part Two I was highly disappointed in the story of General Baker Jr. From his quick introduction of his job title at Ford Motor Company to when he got arrested, I didn't like his tone and lack of personal details. Yes, it was probably hard for him to write about the situation, but it was really hard for me to try to connect with his words on a personal level. I wasn't necessarily disappointed with the events in his story, but rather the quickness in which they were told. It seemed like once he hit a major event in his Vietnam story, he was talking about the next one. I definitely felt this way about his time in Cuba. It would have been nice to know a little bit more about why he said that "I would have never have been the same person without these two and a half months in Cuba". I felt like he left the reader hanging. Despite these disappointing factors, I was still impressed by his lack of fear of going to jail. I would be scared no matter what to go to jail, but he seemed to not care at all. He knew what he believed in and stuck to that. To go against the draft you have to be extremely determined and have plenty of courage. The line "I had my toothbrush in my pocket because I thought I was going to jail" proved to me that he was ready to receive whatever punishment the government had in store for him. His story was a reminder that you need to stick up for what you personally want and believe in.

interesting support,
given your own
father served.

This is not the disappointment
I asked for... not what
he left out, but what was included.
Author Appy is to blame for what was included
in the book or not. I thought you would
have focused on his draft evasion. (again given)
I can accept the positives you mentioned at the
end, but not the negatives.