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In Appy's *Patriots*, the story that best represented a turning point in the Vietnam War in part four titled "A Turning Point" was Clark Dougan's. In his story he talks about growing up in "Middle America" during the war and how the two options for a young man were college or the military and how even in college you had the chance of being drafted. Dougan's main turning point was when he read in a newspaper on Memorial Day while on a visit home from college that a former classmate of his had died in Vietnam. He said that was when it hit him "like a hammer" that while he had gone to college there were people that he had known who were dying in Vietnam.

Not only was this a turning point for Dougan himself, it was a turning point for "Middle America." For the first time, people in small towns and average cities were beginning to question why they were sending their boys off to fight in a foreign country. When it became personal, when deaths like Greg Fischer's began showing up in newspapers was when people began to turn their viewpoints away from supporting the war. The fact that these deaths of average guys, guys that most people wouldn't find special but were the kind of guy that you sat next to during homeroom, was what made these deaths significant. It showed that anyone could be sent to Vietnam and killed, and people began to realize that they did not think that it was worth it. It also was a turning point in the mood of the country as a whole. Each city might have had its own time that it turned, but when they turned they were done with the war and many did not care for the reasoning behind it anymore. Conservative newspapers like The *Cleveland Press* that Dougan mentioned had once supported the war began to run stories about the deaths of boys from their towns. These articles reflected the changing position from support to opposition to the war. Dougan put it best when he said, "World War II vets who had been sitting around their kitchen tables saying, 'You've got to fight for your country,' were starting to say, 'Fuck this. It's not worth Greg Fischer's life or his buddy's life.'" Or maybe they weren't saying it, but they were starting to feel it" (306).

In part five titled "Endings" the story that best portrays an end was Beverly Gologorsky. She was a peace activist during the war. In her story she describes how she started participating in demonstrations and got involved with different activists. She talked about her peaceful antiwar demonstrations and her involvement with the Women's Union. One of the events that she talked about was when in May of 1971 the Vietnam veterans came to Washington and helped end the position of supporting the war by reenacting the antiwar movement. Gologorsky describes them wanting to end the war and how they threw away their Purple Hearts and other medals in front of the Capital. The soldiers showing that they were done with the war and wanted it to end showed the country that not even the soldiers backed the war. (This ended any idea that what was going on over in Vietnam could be salvaged in any way.) not a combat

Gologorsky described a soldier that was trying not to cry. "Having thrown the medals away he started to walk off and collapsed on somebody's shoulder. The hardness went out of him. Everything just went soft." (417). This veteran showed the emotions that so many that had gone before him that day felt. He portrayed the emotions that had been bottled up for so many, the release of what he had experienced over in Vietnam. When the soldiers turned against the war was the end of any hope of support for the war continuing on. The country had been boiling and the veterans coming home were what helped them

which ones? awk

*- All of them? No. Who?*

boil over. The soldiers were done and so was their country. For them, the war needed to end and they knew that they were the end. They had the power to finish the war, because without the support of the country and its soldiers it becomes difficult to continue.

To Gologorsky, there is no true end to Vietnam for her. She said that she does not feel that she needs closure or that our country should have closure. "There shouldn't be closure for the country, because if there's closure, there's just a chance it could happen again (417). The hatred that she had during the war continued on after it had ended. Some are still angry about it. Each person has their own ending to the war but it doesn't mean that we can't learn from it.

*strange ending here*

*"Hatred" & "learning from it"*

*These could be 2 different paper topics*

*Little to no inclusion of any outside facts or data to support your story choices.*

*It is as if you elevated these 2 people (in parts 1 & 2) to speak for All of America.*