

★★★★ The Robert Maynard Hutchins  
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF  
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

October 5, 1987

Professor Walter Capps  
Attn: Religious Studies  
UCSB  
Santa Barbara, California 93106

October 12, 1987

Dear Professor Capps:

John L. Holladay  
Col. USA. (Ret.)  
72591 Betty Lane  
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

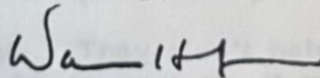
Dear Colonel Holladay:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful response to the CBS "60 Minutes" segment that focused on the class that I teach.

You raise some very thoughtful questions. We do try to treat some of them in the class time that we have. And there is now a considerable body of literature on who fought in Vietnam, from what sociological groupings, and the like. As you point out, there were many, many inequities.

Many thanks for writing.

Sincerely,



Walter H. Capps  
Acting Director

JOHN L. HOLLADAY COL USA (RET)  
72591 Betty Lane  
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

October 5, 1987

Professor Walter Capps  
Attn: Religious Studies  
UCSB  
Santa Barbara, California 93106

Dear Professor Capps:

I watched, with interest, last evening the segment on "60 Minutes" involving your classes about the Vietnam War.

Since the advent of the long black wall in Washington, D.C., it has become increasingly popular for those very segments of society who condemned the Vietnam Vet to now welcome him and to express their concern for his welfare.

This raises a profound question you may be interested in exploring. Who is the Vietnam Veteran? We have accepted him to be a young, usually bearded and long haired man, dressed in some portion of a military uniform who is suffering from some form of stress brought on by his Vietnam experience.

I believe you'll find that the vast majority of men beneath the rank of Captain or Sergeant were a product of the selective service system, the draft.

The people who ran the war were the professionals, the ones who do this sort of thing out of choice, not chance. They too are Vietnam Vets and do not fit the generally accepted description of one.

The reason for this is simple. They didn't hate the war. Quite the contrary, they loved it. As far as wars go, it was a good one.

The Korean War on the other hand was not much of a war, but better than no war at all. A cliché maybe, but none the less, a truism.

What makes a "good war" for the professional? Simple. Money. Money means supplies. Supplies mean bodies, and bodies mean expansion, and expansion means promotion and citations and in the final analysis the war, any war, is a means to an end for the professional.

Many professional soldiers, both officer and enlisted, voluntarily served two, three and four tours in Vietnam. What attracted these people to that place? Their military careers were the ultimate beneficiaries providing they survived. Many did not. Most did.

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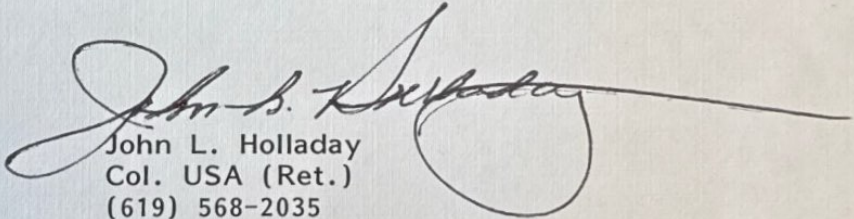
Consider also the "Vietnam Vet" who spent his entire tour in Saigon, or Da Nang. He drew the same \$64.00 a month "combat pay" that the soldiers out on the "landing zones" drew. That I, as one who visited the war every day in my helicopter and slept every night in a dry bed under a solid roof, also drew.

It's all good and well to talk about "not letting this thing happen again". We said that several wars back. It will, of course, happen again as surely as night follows day, as long as there exists an industry to design and manufacture weapons, there will be men and women only too willing to use them on the battlefield.

The seedlings have been planted in the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf and it won't be too long till all the machinery now in place will begin to harvest under an age old charter that the human psyche finds necessary to fulfill.

General Douglas Mac Arthur, at the close of his career, called for war to be outlawed. I don't know how that can be done, but I think it's a hell of an idea.

If you'd care to discuss the other side of the Vietnam Vet coin in further detail, please feel free to call me.

  
John L. Holladay  
Col. USA (Ret.)  
(619) 568-2035