

Sharon M. Parker
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Professor Walter Capps
Department of Religious Studies
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

Dear Professor Capps,

While "channel-surfing" with the TV remote control on Saturday mornings I came across the broadcast of your Religious Studies 155: Impact of the Vietnam War course. As both a Vietnam-era veteran and an undergraduate pursuing degrees in religious studies and Psychology I found the concept of your course to be quite interesting.

In listening to the veterans who were guest lecturers for your course I began to wonder whether you had considered including a representative from those veterans, like myself, who received entry level separations before they were called that. These discharges are honorable on the face of them but carry no benefits and often bear obscure codes which make them less than honorable. We too were and continue to be impacted by our Vietnam era service but are invisible to both other veterans and society in general. Who speaks for our experiences of the war?

Thank you for taking my comments under consideration and for bringing Vietnam to a generation who otherwise would think of it as an ancient episode of America's history.

Sincerely,

smparker

Sharon M. Parker