

A VETERANS ALBUM "Vietnam"

Richmond, VA. 23227-5096

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C-Span

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To whom it may concern:

I have taken the liberty of writing you and sending copies of some material which concerns a book I have been working on for almost four years now and has finally gone to print. The book, entitled "A Veterans Album, Vietnam" is a collection of photographs, poems, statements, unit patches etc., that I have solicited from Vietnam Veterans around the country including Guam, Canada and Australia.

The reason for doing the book in the first place was actually two fold. First, I wanted to give the men and women who served in Vietnam, something solid to reflect on. I've talked with so many WWII veterans over the years, my own father included, and one thing they all have in common is that they have little else then their own memories. The pictures they once had of friends and buddies have long disappeared. I would like it to be a different scenario for those of us who fought in the Vietnam war. The second reason for the book is that over the years, with the help of authors that never spent five minutes in Vietnam and of course Hollywood, the american people have developed such strange ideas about what kind of person served in the war. I would like them to see the faces of the "kids" that did serve and die. Most of the men & women who appear in the book are in their late teens and unfortunately, many of them were killed after the photos were taken. In some cases, the photographs are the last ones ever taken of them and I'm afraid that most of their families have no idea that they even exist, which is why I am requesting your assistance.

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Without the help of people like yourself, many of the veterans but most importantly the families of many of these men, will never even know that this book is available. It is the same problem I had while putting the book together and trying to contact veterans but I feel that now it is much more important. I know that if I had a son that had been killed over there, I would want a copy of the last picture ever taken of him. In addition, there are still many Veterans out there who go through the mental anguish of Vietnam because they have so many memories that have yet to be dealt with. This book is by no means a cure all but it is my hope that it will help some of them.

Finally, it is my sincere hope that by people seeing the faces of those they sent to war will have a profound effect on future decisions to send young men into combat. The "WALL" in Washington, D.C. has certainly had an effect on people but, when you put actual faces to the names, I think it really drives a point home.

As I mentioned earlier in the letter, without the help of people like yourself and your program, my chances of getting the word out about the book are very poor. As I'm sure you have determined already, this whole concept of getting a book published is new to me and quite possibly I'm going about this all wrong but I am very concerned about reaching as many Veterans and their families as is possible. Any help and assistance you could afford would be greatly appreciated not only by myself but I'm sure, by anyone interested in this book.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

