

02-29-96

From: Daniel Pope

04:09 PM

Date: Thursday, 29-Feb-96 04:09 PM

From: Daniel Pope
To: Corvino

\ Internet:
\ Internet:

Subject: Welcome home!!!

Neil,

It's so good to hear from you. From reading your letter I can understand the reluctance, but rest assured, there are a lot of guys out there, just like you, that have ghosts they haven't been able to whip, myself included. Part of the reason I'm doing what I'm doing is to help us heal those wounds, we owe it to ourselves.

I went through many years of denial and self-medication and damn near wrecked a good marriage as a result before I admitted I couldn't whip it by myself and finally got into a good PTSD program. One of the things that I learned out of that experience is that you've got to do what you've just done. You've got to get it out in the open and start dealing with it, and you've taken the first step.

Neil, you have a classic case of survivor's guilt. You have to realize that the emotions and reasons that made you want to 'not go to the field' were, from your own individual standpoint, probably justified. And here is where you have to segregate things. You can't confuse your own motivations with those of others because it's unjust to you as an individual. And therein lies the source of most of the guilt. (Judgement by peer's is ego BS)

As far as the incident with Briggs, you made a mistake that anyone could have made! And if you really look at the description of the event in your letter, you'll see that, even though a very negative thing happened, you did the right thing. You probably saved his life!! So, lighten up on yourself.

One real good piece of advise here. You don't need to try and justify what happened, that's your ghost!! All you really need to do is understand it from an unbiased and realistic standpoint. Once you can do that, it'll heal.

I'm really glad you walked across the bridge Neil, don't worry, I'll hump your ruck if need be. WELCOME HOME BROTHER!!!!

Thanks for the KIA info, I have Emory Smith.

I'm sorry, but I don't have an address for Benny Diggs. He's one of the one's we haven't found yet. Don't despair though, we've got a big grapevine going here, he may turn up like a lot of other guys who have been out of the net forever!

Looking forward to hearing from you again soon!!

Sincerely,
Daniel