

Aug. 17, 1995

Dear Ruth Coder Fitzgerald,

I was indeed thrilled to receive your letter. It was my first from someone in a somewhat similar situation.

I find myself having mixed feelings about more remembrances in Washington, D.C. Part of me wants those who have died because of their experience in Vietnam remembered in some way, then another part of me screams, why bother. It cannot bring any of them back.

I am still very angry with our government for their uncaring attitude. It seems nothing has been learned from the Vietnam war. As one elderly gentleman stated, old men start wars and young men die, such a waste and the needlessness of it all.

Wayne was my only son. He took his own life on a Sunday night, Nov. 3rd 1986, after fighting ^{addiction} heroin for 16 years after his return from Vietnam. He was just 37 years old. I shall never get over it.

I am so sorry about your brother, again what a terrible waste.

Since I am elderly I have little hope of ever visiting Washington, D.C. However it might aid somewhat in the healing to know that Wayne's name would at least appear somewhere other than on his grave marker. If for no other reason than to stand as a warning to future generations. It is not only those who are killed in the fighting but the repercussions for years to come.

Again thank you for taking the time to write. I would indeed be supportive of some way of honoring those who have gone on since that terrible war.

Sincerely,

Mildred Eisenmann

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