

March 21st, 1985

Dear Walt,

My wife's father received a copy of the LA Times (Mar 10th) from a friend of his down in the Los Angeles area. She was reading through it and brought to my attention an article about Walter Capps and his teaching a class at UCSB on the Vietnam War and its after effects.

First of all I want you to know how much I appreciate what you are doing as a Vietnam Veteran myself and member of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

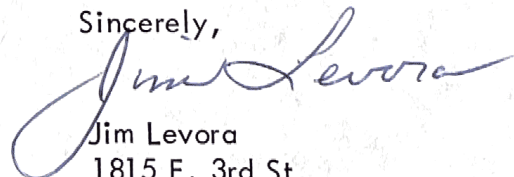
Eighteen years ago (1966-67), I was an Army Specialist attached to the Marine Corps 35 miles south of DaNang. I worked with the Vietnamese Popular Forces and Regional Forces securing our own hamlet and was also involved in the Pacification Program for that hamlet. Most people don't think we should have been there and I'm one of them, but when a group of kids with tropical ulcers eating their flesh down to the bone come to you for help (I was the medic on Wednesdays in the hamlet) or an old man with a cancerous lump the size of a softball on his neck, and you can treat and deliever them from the pain and suffering it was worth it. Sure we were unpopular with the VC and the NVR--got mortored 200-300 times a night --shot at constantly, but isn't life worth that much? I even took a lot of crap from the Marines for helping people they didnt think were worth it. In essence, I got it from both sides.

Coming home--yes coming home. I didn't tell anyone except those who knew me that I was a Viet Vet for almost 2 years. Heavy drinking, an extremely heavy dooper, mountain man for almost 5 years, and no direction in my life for almost 14 years. Now, at the age of 42, I've got myself together and finally have the responsibility to raise my first child a 6 months old daughter.

Walt, I want you to know that I'm available to tell my testimony of the war and its effects on my life to your class. I would be willing to drive down to Santa Barbara from Port Angeles, Washington just to talk for 10 or 15 minutes.

As I said, if you can use me as a different point of view on the war please write or call and let me know.

Sincerely,



Jim Levora  
1815 E. 3rd St.  
Port Angeles, Wa. 98362

P.S. I'm also in the T'Shirt business and have designed a Vietnam Vet T-Shirt that is being sold around the states. I am sending you one as a gift to wear with pride---  
JUST FOR THE WARRIORS.