

**Just an Ex-Grunt**

Editor—Gee, I sure wish I was a POW. Victory parade, tax-free back pay, in-prison promotion, constant TV and newspaper exposure, people wanting to give you all sorts of free gifts. It must be great. All for sitting in the Hanoi slammer. Not that they don't deserve it: they won the war, didn't they? All 600 of them.

Of course, I'm just an ex-grunt and don't deserve anything. Slogging around in rice paddies, killing old people and kids and getting shot up doesn't have an iota of the appeal of those guys' stories. Doesn't sell newspapers. Two and a half million of us fought and then had to sneak home. The best of us got a \$200 GI funeral with a free flag for mom. The rest get education benefits with about a quarter the buying power our dads got for World War II and Korea. Those without arms and legs get their disability reduced. Those looking for jobs get their assistance programs eliminated.

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