

DURING VIET NAM

A sharing of our experiences from that time that shaped our lives

On Saturday (June 9th) of our 50th Reunion, we will gather to share experiences from the Viet Nam Era and how those shaped our lives. This session is not just about being in the military or serving in Viet Nam – although those will certainly be part of the discussion. Rather, this session is intended to be about how that time shaped our outlooks about life, led to choices in vocations and locations to settle down, perhaps resulted in finding life partners – and anything else that fits the topic.

The session will start with a panel discussion by Classmates Burt Quist, Dick Olson and the late John “Bear” Everett (via excerpts from an oral history interview he did not too long before he died while hiking in Spain). The panel will be kicked off by Dartmouth History Professor Ed Miller, who specializes in the Viet Nam era and will remind us of major events that occurred during our undergraduate years.

The panel is intended to set the stage for a side-ranging discussion by all who wish to participate – and that includes anyone in the room – wives/partners, kids – whoever wants the microphone. If the panel can share their experiences, so can you.

Past classes who have done similar sessions consistently considered it to be one of the most meaningful parts of their 50th Reunion. We hope you will too.

So if you are already coming to our 50th, I hope you will come to this session. If you haven’t decided to attend yet, maybe this is the reason to do so, at least for Saturday.

There are several things you can do to stimulate your thinking about this:

- Watch Ken Burns’ and Lynn Novick’s *The Vietnam War* documentary
- Read President Emeritus Jim Wright’s book *Enduring Vietnam* (Thomas Dunne Press)
- Read the Class of 64’s *Dartmouth Veterans – Vietnam Perspectives* (Dartmouth College Press)

And if you are interested in seeing a journal I put together after spending the first half of last September in Viet Nam – big file, lots of pictures – email me at mwaterhouse@snet.net and I will send it to you OR read it on the class website (www.dartmouth68.org).

Hope to see you in three months at Reunion.

Mark (Skip) Waterhouse
Session Moderator