

## Stanford Law Students Back From War

This letter is in response to the article in the Spring 2008 issue titled "Stanford Law Students Back From War."

In the Class of '70, I was the only combat veteran—I believe. We had Lou Guerrieri '71 (BA '58), a career naval aviator, just retired, who, I believe, had never served in combat. We also had Jim Beery '70, a Marine Corps officer, who, I also believe, had not served in armed conflict. I served 18 months in the Vietnam War (between 1964 and 1967) as a U.S. Naval officer. When I entered law school—in September 1967, still wearing my uniform, inasmuch as I was not processed out until mid-September—I had in my pocket a very coveted possession indeed: a 5-A draft card, indicating that I had completed my required military service. Such a card could have fetched serious sums of money back then; most of my classmates were draft eligible. I was also 29 years old amongst my classmates who were mostly around 21 to 22.

As I read the article by Sharon Driscoll, the memories came flooding back. Many people at present are too young to remember just how unpopular the war in Vietnam was. Even as early as in 1967. Of course, it got much more unpopular as time wore on and casualties mounted. Some of my classmates took secret looks at me, which—combined with envy that I didn't have to go where they might—barely hid the thought that I was a warmongering monster. At first, I had very few friends. When I served, I didn't get to put letters on my bulkhead (synonymous with "wall" in Navy talk) from kids, saying, "I hope you don't die." However, I did get hit with rotten tomatoes in civilian airports, wearing my country's uniform, on the infrequent occasions that I got leave. Times were different then.

I didn't think that the Vietnam War made sense. Just as I don't think the Iraq War makes sense or that it ever did. But my country was calling and I didn't hide behind the Canadian or Swedish borders, nor behind a phony 4-F, or a phonier Air National Guard assignment, flying airplanes everyone

# letters to the editor

knew were too old, outdated, and unfit to face the modern MiGs with which the North Vietnamese air force was equipped. A person such as this is our present commander in chief, who orders wars and invasions to begin and sends young people to face the enemy from whom he, himself, hid when his country called. I could not help but applaud the very astute observation by Sean Barney '10 when he commented on the fact that the Iraq War was not undertaken seriously, not discussed and debated sufficiently and the country's soul not searched adequately because "I think that's a reflection, in part of the very, very few veterans in Congress and in public life, proportionately, compared to what it was in the past." Back in the late '60s and early '70s, there were constant demonstrations on campus—all of which I attended—against the war. What puzzles me is where are the youth of today? Why are they not on the streets, screaming their heads off, demanding an immediate withdrawal from Iraq?

The one thing that military service did by way of preparation for law school and a legal career of trial work is teach me—early and often—how to take abuse with a smiling face, often from superiors (later called "judges") who were sometimes quite inferior in intelligence and education and whose decisions frequently made little sense. In this, I think the four people mentioned in the Driscoll article share my sentiments. Good luck to all of them in their legal careers and in life!

ADAM VON DIOSZEGHY '70 (BA '64)

## Reaction to Hufstедler Profile

Thank you for your wonderful piece "Judge Hufstедler: A Lifetime of Achievement," by Randee Fenner (BA '75), Spring 2008 issue. The article expanded my knowledge of the incredible scope of Judge Hufstедler's achievements, which are truly awe inspiring.

The article also increased my admiration for Stanford Law School, which consistently admitted outstanding women during the 1940-50s despite the high attrition rate and gloomy post-graduation prospects these women faced. Of course, the law school's commitment to women paid off spectacularly, not only with superstars like Shirley Hufstедler '49 and Sandra Day O'Connor '52 (BA '50) but with the many excellent women alumni since.

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*Stanford Lawyer* (ISSN 0585-0576) is published for  
alumni and friends of Stanford Law School.

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### ISSUES OF THE MAGAZINE SINCE FALL 1999 ARE

#### AVAILABLE ONLINE AT

www.law.stanford.edu/publications/stanford\_lawyer

### *Stanford Lawyer* is listed in:

Dialog's Legal Resource Index and Current Law  
Index and LegalTrac (1980-94).

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