

Letters to the Green Berets

PROUD OF HER SON

(Ed. Note: The following letter was received by Colonel Healy, who wished to share it with all the men of the 5th SFGA. Mr. and Mrs. Scull are referring to their son SP4 John F. Scull, Jr., killed in action March 21, 1966, at Buon Ea Yang, Republic of Vietnam.)

Dear Sir:

Copies of the enclosed letter, which is self explanatory, were mailed to over forty of the leading newspapers in all areas of the U.S., radio talk shows, congressmen, the Vice President and every newspaper in London, England.

Our son was a proud Green Beret and we wanted the men who still serve their country in Viet Nam to know that we are just as proud of them as we were of him.

Mr. and Mrs. John F. Scull

Enclosure:

To all demonstrators against the war in Viet Nam:

So you hate war.

You hate it because it kills, wastes, and destroys.

Other Americans have also despaired of the killing, the waste, and the destruction in Viet Nam; but they did not surrender, they did not demonstrate, and most did not complain. Their commitment to democracy was firm and unyielding. These Americans served their country, obeyed its laws, fought and died, probably hating war more than you do.

As demonstrators for immediate withdrawal you have chosen to abandon them, to "bug out" on responsibilities that are distasteful to you and, inadvertent as it may be, to aid and abet the cause of communism.

You vigorously pursue the rights bestowed upon you with the blood of generations of American men who fought to keep alive the democracy that many of you have not helped to earn and that some of you are unwilling to defend. I submit that most of you have squandered their magnificent legacy upon yourselves with no thought of generations to come.

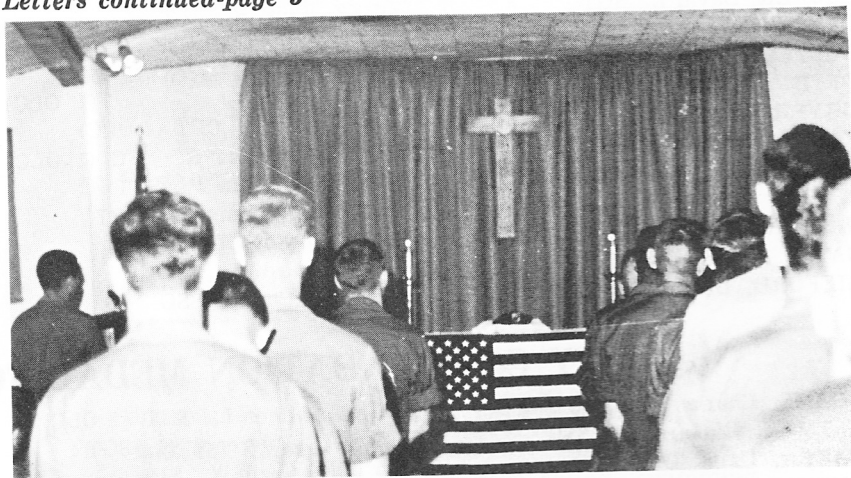
It may will be that destiny has been kind to my beloved son, whose death among thousands of others you profess to mourn, for he is not here to endure the treachery of your pursuit of peace at any price and your willingness to deny the value of his participation in a war he felt to be justified.

The memory of my sweet, gentle son is vivid and needs no prodding from demonstrations of those who hate war but not enough to hate both sides of it—theirs and ours.

When you are ready to take your long list of war dead to the streets of North Viet Nam, to sing songs in the by-ways of Red China, to utter your prayers and shout your speeches in the factories of Russia . . . then I will be ready to clasp you to my heart, join you in your pleas and stand beside you in your cause . . . unto death . . . because you see my son, too, hated war.

Mrs. John F. Scull

Letters continued-page 5



SPECIAL FORCES SOLDIERS who gave their lives in Vietnam were honored in special Veterans' Day memorial services held by Chaplain (CPT) James R. Endress in the crowded Green Beret Chapel in Nha Trang. Photo by SFC Freddie Dugger.