

from the CAPITOL

By GOV. GRANT SAWYER



"For you to be free is for me to be happy..." ONLY ELEVEN WORDS, yet they bear eloquent testimony to the selfless dedication of a young Nevadan serving with the Marine Corps in Viet Nam. His name is Alan VanGuilder, his rank is private first class, and his home is Nevada. He is a man to be admired by every citizen of his state and nation.

Private VanGuilder is one of several Nevadans who have written to me and my family from Viet Nam in the past several months. I look forward to these letters. They are inspiring reminders that the American fighting man has lost neither his sense of values nor his sense of humor while enduring the miseries of a new and different kind of war.

Some of the correspondence is light-hearted and some is serious, but all, without exception, reflects confidence in our mission to end Communist aggression in Viet Nam.

"I sincerely believe that what we are doing in Viet Nam is just," writes Private VanGuilder. "I am sure we will win. Freedom is our cause and the standard of democracy is our goal."

SPECIALIST FOURTH Class Gary Hight, a member of the Army's already legendary First Cavalry Division, writes:

"The men... are really upset over what's going on in the States. Why is it that some citizens do not seem to realize that one of the greatest goals in life is... the safety of our democracy and a free way of life?"

"I only hope those demonstrators are a minority rather than a majority."

Typically, the letters are filled with the American GI's traditional concern for the innocent victims of war. Private VanGuilder describes the Vietnamese as "a poor, diseased and frightened people." Specialist Hight says his tour of duty has "made me realize how Communism affects innocent people."

Some letters vividly describe the incredible strain of combat. Army PFC Lance Gotchy writes:

"Life in Viet Nam is uncomfortable, both mentally and physically. We can take the physical discomfort, but the scared feeling one gets when he learns of the next operation... it feels good to get started and to lose the suspense of it all."

ONE THING Private Gotchy hasn't lost is his sense of humor. His letter is written on the back of a Christmas Day menu for Army troops. At the top of the menu--which featured roast turkey and all the trimmings--he carefully inscribed: "Believe me, Governor, it wasn't this good!"

Some of the correspondence can only be described as heart-breaking. This, for example, from Army PFC R.E. Wagner.

"It is real hard for me to write this letter, because this is the first time I ever received a letter from a governor and his family. I hope when I come home in May of 1966 I will be able to thank you in person.

"May God bless you and your family always."

Equally unforgettable are the final paragraphs of Private VanGuilder's letter:

"For you to be free is for me to be happy. May God bless all of you."

AND THEN, the last lines of Specialist Hight's letter, which tell the whole story of our involvement in Viet Nam:

"As long as you and I believe we should be free, we must treat that feeling in others as important. There is no finer cause for which a man may die than the cause of these people."

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"SCIENCE SEMINAR A THRILL" - By Lynn Renee Henry, Yvette Wynn

(6th Grade Reporters)

The sixth grade science class of Jo Mackey has completed research papers on various topics such as the Earth's Atmosphere, the study of the Atom, the Earth's Magnetism and Phylum Arthropoda. Mr. Herschel Williams, their science teacher, was the advisor for this seminar.

The winners were: Eric Smith 1st place, the study of Arthropods; Michael Bousley, James Jackson, and Dwayne Lomack, 2nd place, the study of Magnetism; Renece Durden, Naomi Childers, Sharon Joiner, 3rd place, study of the Clouds and Atmosphere. Each group showed examples of their research.

JO MACKEY WAS INDEED PROUD of this sixth grade class. The papers will be bound and put in the school library on exhibit. This science seminar was a great thrill for the sixth graders. Do drop in and see them from 3:15-3:30 at Jo Mackey's library.



PROUD AND HAPPY--Jo Mackey School Principal, H.P. Fitzgerald (left) and Herschel Williams, 6th grade science teacher (3rd from left) beam with pride as they pose with Jo Mackey 6th grade Research Contest Winners (1-r): Eric Smith, 1st place; Sharon Joiner, 3rd place; Dwayne Lomack, 2nd place; Naomi Childers, 3rd place; James Jackson, 2nd place; Renece Durden, 3rd place; Michael Bousley, 2nd place; Vernon Jean Hollon, 4th place; and Lynn Henry, 4th place.

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