

From: Patrick Camunes [patcam@stic.net]

Sent: August 29, 1999, 4:22 PM

To: julieweaver@juno.com

Cc: [Don Poss](#)

Subject: Forgiveness

Julie Weaver,

I read your letter and Don's responses to it, and I was very touched with it. Your letter speaks of Forgiveness for yourself and the Nation's way of having treated the Vietnam veteran. Don pointed you in the direction of my story, "[From The Other Side](#)", where I believe I'm asking Forgiveness for myself, as in "Payback", for not having followed my brothers to the other side. But I've also found that many people have found so many different meanings for these healing words that were "given" to me.

In my stories "[My Enemy](#)" and "[Claymores Out](#)", I ask for Forgiveness from my past enemies for having ended the beginning of what could have been a very long and prosperous life for them and their families.

In my poem, "[I Never Felt](#)", I believe that I'm asking Forgiveness from the Almighty to help cleanse my hands of blood and the eternal memories of having done things that were in everyday against every moral fiber in my body.

In "[Jack Understood](#)", I've asked for Forgiveness from myself for letting myself get into that situation. I asked Forgiveness from my family and friends that I had separated myself from. I asked Forgiveness from my very own VietVet brothers and sisters for not supporting them more than I had.

As you say in your letter, the act of Forgiveness has huge power and yet I still ask for it for so many reasons. This Forgiveness or lack of Forgiveness is what cuts so deep in the heart of so many VietVet and yet we may never get it ... or accept it. Yet, we continue asking in our own little ways.

Many of us, as Vietnam veterans, did something that we were truly sorry for so many years ago and still somehow ask for Forgiveness. I know that by saying this, I sit in the very small minority of Vietnam veterans, but I will say that if Jane Fonda is truly asking for Forgiveness for something foolish, she did so many years ago, I would be one to say, "I Forgive you". As you said, the words, "I Forgive" have eternal power and it WILL eventually come around but in the meanwhile, I will never deny those words to anyone and condemn them to suffer the torment that I have personally felt for so many years from not hearing those words. I'm not a church going religious person, but I do believe that this is what the Bible teaches, no matter what your religion is.

Julie, thank you for your heart-felt letter and as I stated before, I cannot deny you those words, "*FC adfsb Vr*," but as you can see, there is still much Forgiving that many of us still seek. God bless you and your loved one.

APVNV [Pat \(Beanie\) Camunes](#)