

# “Inspired”

I still have the essay I wrote for 6th grade in 1966 titled "Why We Should be in Vietnam." I thought our soldiers would bring democracy to that far away country. My essay was posted on the bulletin board and Mrs. Arnold read it to the whole class. Some time later, I remember staring at a newspaper editorial on Thanksgiving that said "God Bless Our Boys in Vietnam." I felt something special for those boys. Then, 3 years later, by chance, I came upon a free concert--a guy named Pete Seeger, with a guitar singing "If you love your Uncle Sam, bring 'em home. Support our boys in Vietnam, bring 'em home." My whole body shivered. I saw smiling faces of draft age kids waving peace signs. I felt I was undergoing a change like I had never experienced before. I dedicated myself to creating a more peaceful world and to become an anti-Vietnam war activist. Ever since then, I have done whatever I could; joining protests, organizing peace groups, meeting with congressmen, writing to newspapers, photographing people in struggle, campaigning for peace candidates in election years, raising money for causes, helping refugees fleeing from war, and more. I don't plan to stop.

—Paul, Delmar