

David Taylor '66 Memory Email January 11, 2009

Beth - really have no letters I saved. I will come to Brown this late winter to sit down with you and go over my history and bring some photos and stories. Guess letter just brought back memories of forgettable past. got married to a Pembroke before I went over seas. Probably really did not expect to return and it just seemed like the thing to do. She was Class of 1968 and graduated early to "be with me". Lucky girl!. Cultural values split people and even though we were only a few years apart were were of two different generations. Turns out the Marine Corps, Vietnam and my stint at Harvard Business School and being a Presidential pilot for /richard Nixon did not fit the bill. Nor did moving to Texas, consider a cultural wasteland. And then there was ME. She may or may not want to talk about her experiences but she shows up at Brown from time to time as she is a FELLOW of the University. Kathryn Fuller. Perhaps you could contact her and get the perspective of a woman being trapped emotionally and intellectually in times that were a changing - as Bob Dylan used to say. And how she dealt with it. In those days there was no consultation for post traumatic stress or even any consideration given to those who served. Return home one day and act normal. What was normal? I was not a gung ho Marine - just dumbass kid who saw the military scholarship as a free ride to Brown that I took in 1961 when still in high school and had never heard of VietNam except from my postage stamp collection. I was not a rocket scientist but when learned the war would be over in one year I extended my commitment to the Marine by 1.5 years from 4 years to 5.5 feeling that that would get me out of the conundrum. My math skills told me that but somehow the war kept getting extended and the number just did not work out. At least I honored my commitment. In those days there were actually people that felt it was better to die

that to dishonor a commitment. Like I said, I was not a prowar nut just a dumbass. I actually wrote a paper for poly sci my senior year that said that Vietnam was a civil war and that we were not winning and probably could not win conventionally. Did anyone remember DienBeinPhu? It was not well received. Probably poorly written to boot. Doesn't mean I was wrong however. Reminds me of a friend, Fred Smith from Yale who went into the Marines. He wrote a paper at Yale about distribution of goods for a start-up company. Got a C also. Fred tried to get in Marine flight but was turned down. Became a grunt instead. Fred was not a dumbass and went ahead with his idea after the Marines and started FEDEX. I have tried to sent you a couple of photos but the files are too large. At any rate will try and come up there and you can witness an outrageous stream of consciousness first hand. Fasten your seat belt and stock up on your Prozac. People listen my stories and are often enthralled and I should write a book. My wifes tell me to shut up. I have fun in my own mind. David Taylor