Enduring Loss:

THE COSTS OF WAR

ANONYMOUS
VIETNAM VETERAN

LETTER LEFT AT THE VIETNAM
VETERANS MEMORIAL IN
WASHINGTON, D.C., 1990s



·桑萨姆·艾斯尔·克尔·布姆·人士·金安·二字 化多丁克

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The things that I am going to say in this letter are about twenty years and a whole lifetime late, but maybe that won't matter once they've been said.

A lot of the guys who were there say they feel like they lost something in-country. I know what I lost. I've always said that when you died, it was like killing the other half of myself. Maybe that's not necessarily true. What I did lose was youth...all of the idealism, trust, self-confidence, and personal power that we had, either inside or drilled into us...I've never been able to get close to anyone since you died...I live in the past, 'cause today hurts too much...I've come to this monument to have a little memorial service and to say goodbye and to let you go. I'll never forget you, don't worry about that...

Photo credit: Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington, D.C., photo by Andrew Carroll

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