
The memories of the Vietnam war

Two Republicans :
John McCain,
a Vietnam war
veteran and
POW.

① John McCain¹, US Senator and former POW in Vietnam.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/john-mccain-pow/story?id=32574863>

Donald Trump sparked a new political controversy this past weekend when he questioned whether Sen. John McCain could be described as a “war hero,” despite spending more than 5 years as a prisoner of war.

5 Trump’s comment at the Family Leadership Council summit in Iowa on Saturday – “I like people who weren’t captured” – sparked a swift rebuke, including from McCain himself, who broke his silence on Monday, calling on Trump to apologize to military families, especially those of POWs.

10 [...] McCain says his torture began in August of 1968. “For the next four days, I was beaten every two or three hours by different guards. My left arm was broken again and my ribs were cracked,” he said according to U.S. News. The North Vietnamese wanted a confession for crimes committed against the North Vietnamese people. After holding out for four days, McCain, at the point of suicide, agreed to write a confession.

② A lucky American student escapes the draft.

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/02/us/politics/donald-trump-draft-record.html?_r=0

Back in 1968, at the age of 22, Donald J. Trump seemed the picture of health.

But after he graduated from college in the spring of 1968, making him eligible to be drafted and sent to Vietnam, he received a diagnosis that would change his path: bone spurs² in his heels.

5 The diagnosis resulted in a coveted 1-Y medical deferment that fall, exempting him from military service as the United States was undertaking huge troop deployments to Southeast Asia, inducting about 300,000 men into the military that year.

➤ Using the documents and your knowledge, explain why the Vietnam war became a national trauma.

1. John McCain: (1936–2018), US politician. A US senator from Arizona since 1987, he ran as the Republican presidential candidate in 2008.

2. Spurs: in that case, small bone protrusions that may cause pain or injuries.

Trump
managed to
dodge the
draft.