

# In Our Opinion



## Question of the Week

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What is your favorite spring activity?

### Staff



“Watching the leaves pop out?” - Mr. Schleder

### Senior



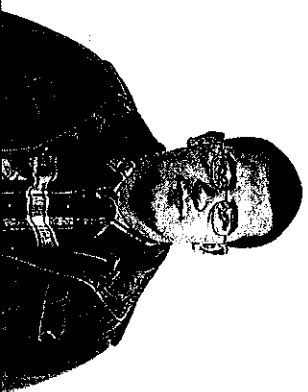
“Fishing” - Amanda Mozal

### Junior



“Riding Horses” - Lydia Schade

### Sophomore



“Hanging out with friends outside” - Patrick Murphy

### Freshman



“Riding my bike” - Clifford McCoy

## Staff Editorial: Reflection on Military Veteran

By Cameron Barrett  
Staff Writer

Ed Zysk came into Richmond High School to talk to Dr. Lad-d's classes about the Vietnam War. After sitting in on his talk, I learned that you could never imagine what the veterans did for our country; they did the un-imaginable.

Zysk knew the moment he got drafted that he would be going to Vietnam. I would never be able to relate to that feeling. I would not know what to do or how I would even manage to take the information.

Zysk was once attacked at night while in Vietnam. To me I would say that would be the scariest thing to ever happen. It was pitch dark and you could not see anything. Yet they had to fight through that to stay alive. Zysk was a combat engineer; they do mine sweeps, demolition—which is explosives- and built army bases and bridges.

Most people would not think those are very hard things to do. But actually it was a hard task. One wrong move and everything could go wrong. To me, I really do not think that I would be able to take on that task. It takes a lot of courage to do that job.

This is one of the least covered wars because the citizens did not like it. They did not want our troops over there fighting; but they were forced to go because they were ordered to. Zysk says they never actually lost the war; they won every major battle. If they stayed over in Vietnam that they would have won the war in the next few days. Vietnam could not take all the bombing that was going on and was ready to surrender.

By the end of the war, every person that went to war got an R&R. This is relax and relaxation. They had five places they could go. Many of the nice spots were taken and filled so Zysk went to Thailand. I believe any place you went would be good. To finally get away from that place and all that was going on had to be best for everyone.

Really none of us know what war is like. We do not know

what it is like being in that atmosphere.

When the troops were sent to Vietnam, citizens did not agree to it after they saw what was going on. But no one realizes the impact it has on the veterans. They had to go and had to follow orders they were given. They sacrificed their lives for us; they left their families for us. And all they got when they came back was nothing. That had to be the worst thing to happen to those men and women.

The impact that Ed Zysk had will never be forgotten. He taught me that what we have is never cherished enough. When he was in the war, he said when you heard planes or bombs you would get down as fast as you can and start praying. They went through that while everyone back home was not interested in the war and did not like it.

The fact that they could lose their lives in the blink of an eye, is scary. We do not understand that type of life, and to be thrown into it would be terrifying.

I feel as if none of us appreciate everything we have. That plus the fact that we take life for granted and have no idea what it would be like to have to go to war.

It was an amazing opportunity to have Ed Zysk in our school because he lived through that experience and knows what really happened. He felt everything all the other veterans did. He never took his life for granted. He will always be a hero to us for all his dedication to our country and our freedom.

It is great to have guest speakers come in, because you get a better understanding about what the situation. It also helps provide more education in an interesting way to the students. Zysk has helped me appreciate life more, while providing me with more knowledge about the war and his experience.

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**Mission Statement:**  
Richmond High School's student newspaper, The Blue Devils' Advocate, strives to serve the student body and provide a public forum to make their ideas heard to the school and community. Our goal is to provide both accurate and balanced stories in order to heighten understanding, entertain, and inform.

**Letters:**  
We invite readers to share their thoughts with us by writing to the Editor. See the drop off box in the library or you may email us at: mmurphy@richmond.k12.mi.us. Include your name, address, and grade level.

## Editorials

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