

War Dogs By Kelsey Meyer

Mrs. Marino's and Mrs. Thomas's reading classes read stories that centered around the Vietnam War. In class, the students discussed how PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) affects veterans.

Jerry Witt, Joe Campbell, and Al Garcia, Veterans of the Vietnam War, came to talk to the eighth grade students about their life stories. They also brought in four dogs... which are War Dogs - who use therapy dogs to help former soldiers deal with post traumatic stress disorder.

Jo Campbell, known as the Lean Mean Fighting Machine, wasn't welcomed home after war. He never talked about his past till about 30 years later. He came from a large family of nine. When he came home from war in 1968, it was very hard for him. His brother later went to war and came home a drug addict. He ended up getting together with his High School sweetheart and had five kids.

Al Garcia took journaling in college and served in war for three years. Mr. Garcia got married and had three kids. When his daughter was ten years old she asked his to come speak to her class at school. He had a very hard time. He tried to run away from his struggles by drinking, going to parties, and doing drugs; which was something that he wasn't proud of. Al didn't talk about his time in war for about 20 years. He took a trip to the wall in Washington D.C., and he saw that some of the people that he had fought with were on the wall for passing away in the war. Viewing the war was very hard for Al.

Jerry Witt got married to his High School sweetheart in May of 1967. He trained in the US Army in August of 1967 for eight weeks. Then he trained with dogs for an additional 12 weeks. He trained with a dog named Duke. The first dog that Jerry owned was a German Sheppard, Skip. Skip and Jerry separated after Jerry left for war. He had to give Skip up to another dog handler. The Second dog that Jerry got was a lab mix named Satan. Jerry told us that after working with a dog you get attached, they become your best friend.

