

## Letters to the Editor

Only letters that are responsive to articles published in previous issues of the *Bulletin* will be accepted. Authors of these published articles are encouraged to respond to the comments of letter writers. The Editorial Board hopes that this section will enhance the educational mandate of the *Bulletin*.

Editor:

Dr. Rosen made a serious omission in the body and reference sections of his article (G. M. Rosen, Posttraumatic stress disorder, pulp fiction, and the press, 24: 267-9, 1996) by omitting material concerning the plight of Vietnam veterans who have been denied Service connection for PTSD, despite well-documented justification for their claims.

I refer you to the book *Achilles in Vietnam* by Jonathan Shay, MD, PhD (Atheneum Press, 1994). I have seen impressive certificates and military honors bestowed on veterans whose benefits are limited to "dysthymia," after denial for benefits with every valid reason to be classed as PTSD.

Rosen's article expresses a "flip" attitude towards genuine sufferers of PTSD

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Address letters to: Seymour L. Halleck, MD, Editor-in-Chief, Bulletin of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, Department of Psychiatry, University of North Carolina, CB 7160, Medical School Wing D, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

and overlooks a large number of psychiatric casualties from the Vietnam War. It is one of the most grossly unjust and unsavory practices of our Veterans Administration.

Frederick Nesbit, MD  
Psychiatrist  
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### *Reply: Consider Every Side*

Editor:

Every mental health professional can agree with Dr. Nesbit's apparent outrage when PTSD is not diagnosed even when the facts fit. That being said, there is no reason to characterize as "flip" a consideration of the other end of the spectrum. The real world of forensic and disability claims is sliced many ways, and all the pieces deserve our attention. Dr. Nesbit is encouraged to reconsider the last sentence of my paper: "The goal of preserving the validity of serious PTSD claims should caution clinicians who conduct evaluations in forensic or disability settings."

Gerald M. Rosen, PhD  
Clinical Psychologist  
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