

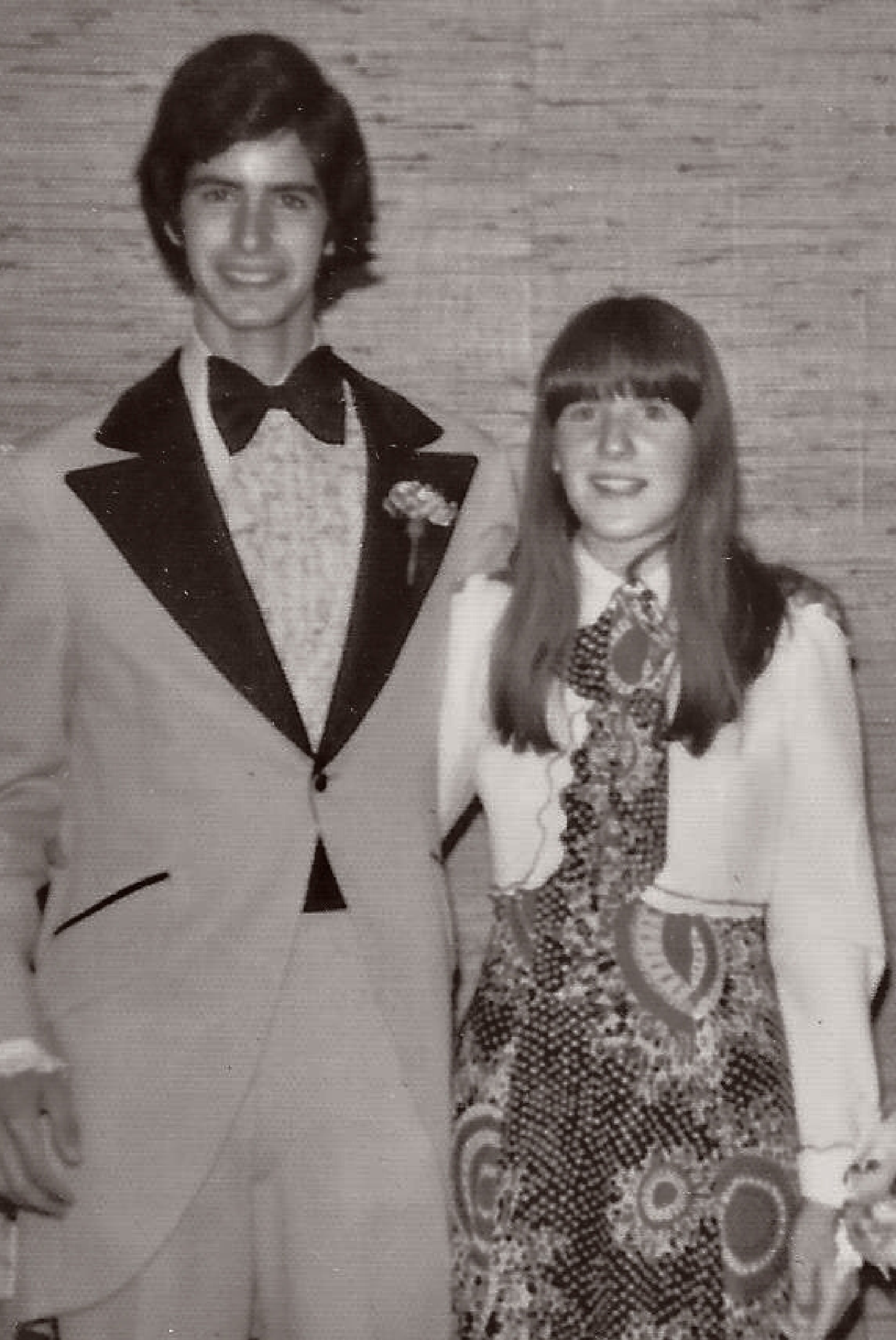
Is There Anybody Here

Is There Anybody Here

Is there anybody here who'd like to
Change his clothes into a uniform
Is there anybody here who thinks they're
Only serving on a raging storm
Is there anybody here with glory in their eyes
Loyal to the end, whose duty is to die
I wanna see him
I wanna wish him luck
I wanna shake his hand, wanna call his name
Put a medal on the man.
Is there anybody here who'd like to wrap
A flag around an early grave
Is there anybody here who thinks they're
Standing taller on a battle wave
Is there anybody here like to do his part
Soldier to the world and a hero to his heart
I wanna see him
I wanna wish him luck
I wanna shake his hand, wanna call his name
Put a medal on the man
Is there anybody here proud of the parade
Who'd like to give a cheer and show they're not afraid
I'd like like to ask him what he's trying to defend
Oh I'd like to ask him what he thinks he's gonna win
Is there anybody here who thinks that following
The orders takes away the blame
Is there anybody here who wouldn't
Mind a murder by another name
Is there anybody here whose pride is on the line
With the honor of the brave and the courage of the blind
I wanna see him
I wanna wish him luck
I wanna shake his hand, wanna call his name
Put a medal on the man
Is there anybody here so proud of the parade
Who'd like to give a cheer and show they're not afraid
I'd like to ask him what he's trying to defend
I'd like to ask him what he thinks he's gonna win
Is there anybody here who thinks that following
The orders takes away the blame
Is there anybody here who wouldn't
Mind a murder by another name
Is there anybody here whose pride is on the line
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I wanna shake his hand, ganna call his name
Put a medal on the man
Medal on the man

The song "Is There Anybody Here" by the legendary folksinger Phil Ochs has a very special meaning to me. When I was a teenager, the Vietnam war was raging, and the words of this song seemed to express the fury and frustration of my generation with the senseless violence in Southeast Asia. The song also reminded me of the importance of having a conscious, and not just "following orders" as life puts difficult decisions in one's path.

At age 15, I gave a Phil Ochs' album to my girlfriend, Sonia. She fell in love with Phil Ochs' music, and some years later, she began her own folksinging career. In 1994, she and her sister Cindy put out an album "Disappear Fear" in which they performed a gorgeous interpretation of this song, and much later, in 2011, she and her sister reunited for a tribute album to Phil Ochs entitled "Get Your Phil". Over the years, Sonia and I have remained close friends, and I've watched her embrace the spirit of social justice in the songs she writes, and watched as she uses her music as a force for good in the world. That something as simple as sharing an album with a teenage sweetheart could have such important consequences taught me that no act of kindness, however simple, should ever be neglected.









































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