



INTRODUCTION



VIETNAM'S WAR OF HATE

PROUD MILITARY VETERANS VILIFIED AT HOME

YOU'RE NOT WELCOME HERE ... IN AMERICA

Vietnam's War of Hate recounts what returning from Vietnam was like for me in 1969, proud of my combat service and proud of my Delta Company brothers. As a draftee who was discharged from the Army five months early with shrapnel a couple inches from my heart, I knew I was lucky to be alive. Inconceivably, five months later I was ready to go back to Vietnam. Dying with brothers in war looked better to me than living with haters in America while going to college in the anticipated refuge of my childhood hometown.

Vietnam's War of Hate is about my struggles trying to comprehend the animosity toward Vietnam veterans in the United States back then. The magnitude was overwhelming. It's also about the evolution of my understanding of the war overall and my battles against the common misrepresentations of the largely patriotic, valorous soldiers who deployed to Southeast Asia.

It took me over thirty years to feel welcome in America, to experience a homecoming commensurate with the sacrifices made. Unfortunately, the erroneous portrayal of U.S. forces in Vietnam persists in popular culture and in the conventional wisdom of far too many Americans. The image of those who served remains tainted to this day including, most tragically, perception of the 58 thousand men and eight women who died in Vietnam. Pride in their service *to* America was stolen from them *by* America. It was ripped from the hearts of their loved ones. *Vietnam's War of Hate* describes my arduous journey entangled in this awful saga. Importantly, its causes are exposed along the way which is of significance today.

Alarmingly, America is once again experiencing the type of strife and convulsions that I came home to in 1969. The bitterness and polarization of that period have resurfaced. As a result, the long trek charted in *Vietnam's War of Hate* offers both timely and enduring lessons for America's current era.



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