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Fearful Odds

A Memoir of Vietnam and Its Aftermath

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ROXBURY ROAD CREATIVE, LLC

605 N Michigan Ave. Suite 411

Chicago, IL 60611

etchicago@gmail.com

(312) 646-5444 (O)

(312) 965-4834 (C)

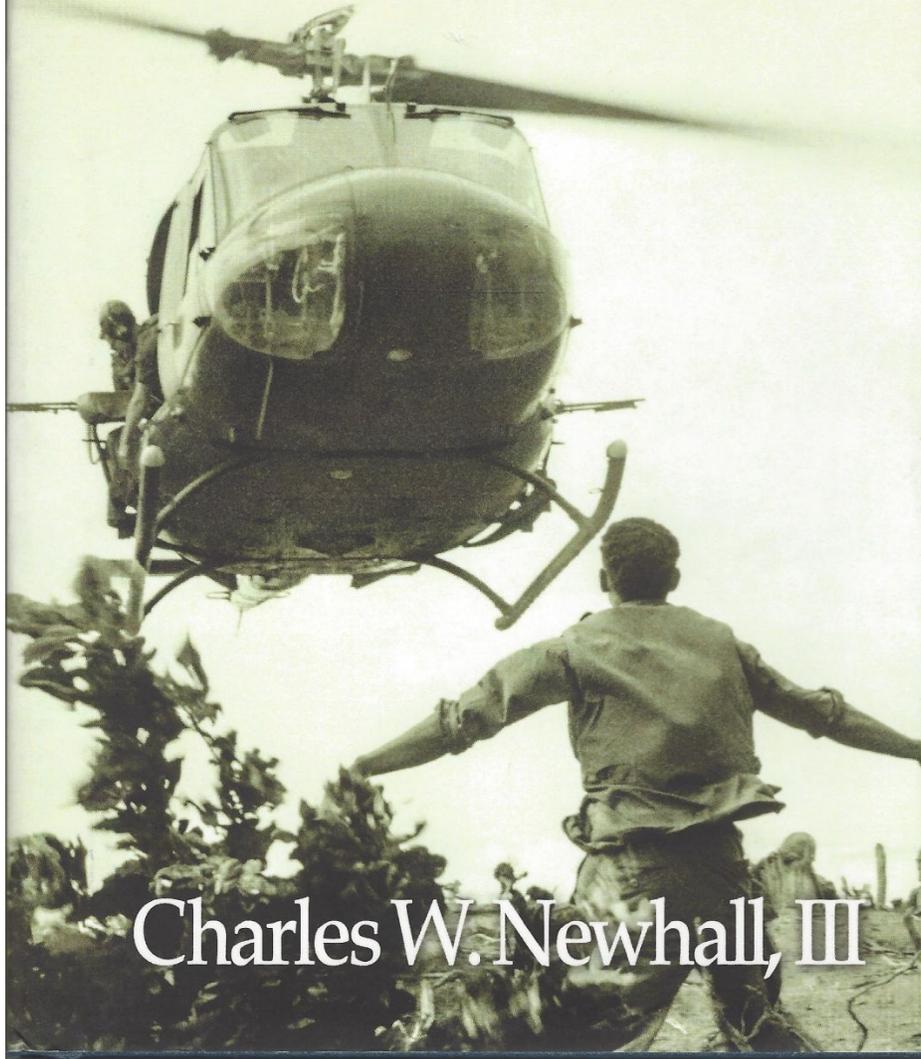
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—Joseph L. Galloway, author of *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young*

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by

Charles W. Newhall, III

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“Chuck Newhall’s compelling narrative account of combat action in Vietnam takes you to one of the darkest hellholes on earth—the A Shau Valley in 1968. Just when you thought that the war was over, Fearful Odds packs a punch in the gut you will be feeling for a long time.”

—Joseph L. Galloway, author of We Were Soldiers Once...and Young

Chuck Newhall is, by any material measure, wildly successful. Along with two partners he founded a venture capital company that raised more than \$14 billion and helped start 800 companies with more than half a trillion in revenues. Those companies helped create balloon angioplasty, Medicare and Medicaid case management and high-speed data communications. This work made Newhall a wealthy man.

But through all the years of high-pressure deal making Newhall kept a secret. During business meetings and at social events he would be nearly overwhelmed by flashbacks to a darker, more dangerous time, flashbacks so vivid he would grip the edge of the table to keep control of himself. Chuck Newhall is a Vietnam vet with severe, chronic post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD.

Newhall is not the scruffy, homeless, stereotyped Vietnam vet suffering PTSD. He is, in some ways, more typical of the majority of veterans with PTSD who have struggled to keep their lives on track in the years since they came home from the jungles. The National Institutes of Health believes nearly a third of Vietnam veterans suffer from PTSD. Of the nearly 2.6 million who served in Vietnam, about 1.5 million experienced actual combat. The PTSD rate among combat veterans is higher. Newhall experienced the full horrors of Vietnam.

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His memoir, *Fearful Odds*, is not only the story of what caused his PTSD and the nearly devastating impact it had on his life, it is also an inspiring story of how one man overcame his psychological injuries.

Fearful Odds is a no holds barred narrative told in three parts. It is the true story of a young Army officer, groomed for command and assigned to lead a platoon on a reconnaissance mission in the A Shau Valley, Vietnam in 1968. An otherwise routine mission is complicated by the contradiction of an inept chain of command. The resulting casualties devastate the platoon and the graphic images and memories of the action and the grueling months that follow, lead Chuck Newhall to a lifetime of severe trauma, guilt, grief and anger.

Returning home, Newhall embarks on an extraordinary entrepreneurial career bringing great wealth, prestige and security, despite severe episodes of depression and anxiety which would hobble others from achieving such levels of success. And yet a few years later, and seemingly without warning, the family that he had worked so hard to create and support is suddenly ripped apart by tragedy intensifying an emotional upheaval that revisits the pain and anguish he first felt during his time in Vietnam.

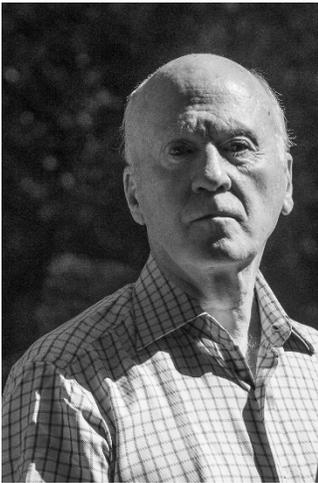
After decades of experience in managing the long-term effects of trauma and with the support of his family, Chuck Newhall has successfully come to terms with his past and the effects of PTSD. *Fearful Odds* offers hope, inspiration and valuable coping tools for anyone, or their families, who has been affected by post-traumatic stress, depression, mild traumatic brain disorder or the suicide of a loved one.

Fearful Odds is a story of perseverance in the face of insurmountable odds and will offer a guiding hand to others who are facing challenges on the battlefield, boardroom or back at home.

Please send inquiries, requests for review copies or interviews and copies of any reviews, articles, or commentaries referencing *Fearful Odds* to Roxbury Road Creative, LLC 605 N Michigan Ave. Suite 411, Chicago, IL 60611 (312) 646-5444 ATTN: Ed Tracy Email: etchicago@gmail.com.

Fearful Odds

A Memoir of Vietnam and Its Aftermath



About the Author

Charles W. Newhall, III

Charles W. “Chuck” Newhall III served in Vietnam commanding an independent platoon including an initial reconnaissance in August 1968 of what would come to be known as Hamburger Hill. His combat decorations include the Silver Star, Bronze Star V(1st OLC) and Purple Heart. He received an MBA from Harvard Business School, and an honors degree in English from the University of Pennsylvania.

Newhall is the co-founder of New Enterprise Associates (NEA) and has been instrumental in financing the dramatic changes in both the health care services and pharmaceutical/biotechnology industries for over four decades. Among his numerous awards, he received the American Spirit Award presented by the National Venture Capital Association, an organization he co-founded in 1988. Newhall has served on the boards of numerous charitable and community institutions including the Greater Baltimore Committee and the Baltimore Museum of Art, where he was involved for over thirty years and served a term as Chairman of the Board.

Newhall is currently working in an advisory capacity for Greensprings Associates, writing and travelling extensively for continuing education. *Fearful Odds: A Memoir of Vietnam and Its Aftermath* is his first book.

Praise for
Fearful Odds

“Grabs you with the opening words and never lets go. Powerful and compelling.”

– Steve Huntley, former Editor and Columnist Chicago Sun Times

“Just when you thought that the war was over, Fearful Odds packs a punch in the gut you will be feeling for a long time.”

– Joseph L. Galloway, author of We Were Soldiers Once...and Young

“This extraordinary memoir reveals the importance of a mild form of stoicism not only to military effectiveness and overcoming the ordeal of combat, but also to overcoming hardships in life encountered far from the battlefield. Fearful Odds illuminates human frailty and strength, compassion and animus, trauma and restoration.”

– H.R. McMaster, author of Dereliction of Duty: Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies that Led to Vietnam

“Chuck Newhall’s Fearful Odds deserves to be read as a harrowing account of combat in Vietnam. But it demands to be read as a vivid, timeless portrayal of the trials of homecoming. If you care about America’s warriors, and about how we as a society can help them come home after war, then you should read this book.”

– Nathaniel Fick, author of One Bullet Away

“There have been many books written on PTSD. They are largely “how to” manuals incorporating prescriptive “lessons” on what to do about one or another type of emotional stress. Too often, these volumes render problems in black-and-white with comparatively simple-minded remedies. Your volume is far better than the great majority of PTSD books. You let the reader appreciate the psychological pain of a wide range of traumatic episodes. In describing how you managed to confront these challenges with largely successful outcomes, you enable the reader to empathize with what you experienced and to apply your insights into his/her own problems.”

– Dr. Solomon H. Snyder, Distinguished Service Professor of Neuroscience, Pharmacology and Psychiatry, The Solomon H. Snyder Department of Neuroscience, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

“For me – a veteran of the A Shau Valley – Chuck Newell's account resonates with all combat warriors who fought in that valley of death. All warriors return with PTS – it's how they confront, adapt and overcome the trauma of horrific combat that is underscored herein. I felt like I was beside Chuck through his Vietnam combat tour. Brought back memories - some good, some bad. It was Chuck's care and concern for his troops, total dedication to his mission, demonstrated leadership and "can do" attitude that led him to confront and overcome the challenges of Leadership in mortal combat. Those who have never experienced it, will never understand. Those who have, totally understand what Chuck went through and salute him for beating the odds.”

– Barney Barnum, Colonel of Marines (ret), Medal of Honor Recipient

“Everyone knows someone who came back from Vietnam and never talks about it. In his brave and unflinching memoir, Chuck Newhall talks about it like no one else ever has. We see combat and its consequences, exploding years later like emotional time bombs when soldiers mistakenly think they are at home. This is a unique book, written in the ground-level tradition of Paul Casey and Timothy O'Brien but all its own about the war that never ends in our real lives. This is the best book I have read about Vietnam as it was lived and as it still plays out in lives all around us.”

– Landon Y. (Lanny) Jones, former managing editor of People and Money magazines and author of William Clark and the Shaping of the West, a biography of the co-leader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

“Newhall has spent thirty years fighting PTSD. His closing chapters aim at helping others with the disorder. He emphasizes the necessity of having expert guidance—in his case, a noted psychiatrist. Most touching, he includes passages from his wife’s diary and her final note, which deal with his failures as a husband and father. Beyond all else, sharing those stunning revelations shows the depth of Chuck Newhall’s courage as a man devoted to improving the lives of others.”

– Henry Zeybel, Vietnam Veterans of America Magazine

“With uncommon candor and crisply written language, underscored by searing emotion hidden from most observers by his deliberate stoicism and well-cultivated warrior ethic, Newhall’s “Fearful Odds, A Memoir of Vietnam and Its Aftermath,” is as painfully absorbing book that I have read in a long time. I highly recommend it.”

– Howard Freedlander, The Talbot Spy

“A really amazing story... hard to believe that somebody can go through what (Newhall) did and emerge and become successful.”— *The Steve Hexom Show, KBRC, Burlington, LA*

“Fearful Odds is going to help a lot of people.” – *Matt West, Host, The Morning Show, KJFF, Festus, MO*

“God had a mission for you... to help other people. If you hadn’t gone through this self-sacrifice, then we wouldn’t have this information. Thank you on behalf of all those who are suffering who might get some help.” – *The Brian Thomas Show, WKRC, Cincinnati, OH*

“Tough book to read... really telling... brutally honest.” – *Julie Rose, Host, Top of Mind, BYU Radio*

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