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Fearful Odds

A Memoir of Vietnam and Its Aftermath

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.

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.