

My dear Chuck,

I have just finished reading your astonishing demi-Autobiography, and what a story! *Fearful Odds* is a very honest, open, unashamedly personal account of your feelings, your faults, and the dreadful consequences of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder resulting from combat in Vietnam, compounded by your admittedly selfish, but totally dedicated commitment to the establishment of NEA (with Frank and others). A very draining set of circumstances, which you confessed contributed towards some tragic consequences, and I am proud of you for relating the interviews with Dr. Kaiser where you were openly, though helpfully criticized ...and look at the perfect result in Ashton and Adair!

Their mother, Marsi, wrote the most detailed confession of every part of her life, another victim of PTSD, and I can quite understand why a part of you will always miss her; but one always remembers the good and not so happy moments in the past, but those moments are gone and one has to be grateful (as you recognized in your very well written book) for the Saints who are your present and your future and who tolerate, console, encourage one; and Amy is the foremost of those saints, and Clarissa and I are so pleased to have you as such close friends.

"Hell to live with on a day-to-day basis" ... may not be entirely accurate and can work both ways! (I speak from experience as my first wife divorced me!) But it proves the strength of both Amy and yourself as you both have confronted the Black Dog in one form or another, and we are all so grateful to Amy for helping you to rationalize when challenged. I speak as someone who has been in the Armed Forces, Chuck, and know that my civilian staff may have been irritated by my insistence on a certain routine, and my Man-management may have been questioned at times (yes, of course one loses one's temper on occasions!), but life is like an ocean, sometimes unexpectedly rough!

With best wishes, Chuck, and 'my Saint Clarissa' and I send's love to 'your Saint Amy' and look forward to seeing you both in early July perhaps.

*Thomas Lord Clifford
Ugbrooke, Devon, England*

Many thanks for sharing your book *Fearful Odds* – Lynn and I both read it, and neither of us could put it down until we finished. You are remarkably transparent and emotionally strong to lay out for readers what you and your family have experienced. You have to be saluted for your brutal and compelling honesty in all components of your memoir.

Over the years that we have worked together, I never realized the challenges that you had experienced earlier. We have always been focused on Baltimore activities, or Museum activities, and never on Newhall life experiences. Now that I know the wide variety that you have had, I appreciate even more your remarkable success in business, in the nonprofit world, and raising a fine family.

*Anthony W. Deering
Former CEO, Rouse Company, Philanthropist*

During the holidays I was able to read your book. My respect for you has always been high, but now it has reached a whole new level. Your valor, toughness, and leadership in Vietnam were truly admirable. Your coping all these years with the issues arising from Vietnam and Marsi is awe inspiring.

*White Matthews
Former CFO, Union Pacific and independent director*

Let me lead with the bottom line: I am really glad we are friends! You have achieved greatness in a number of ways. The substantive ways, you and everybody else know. There is something greater than the substantive achievements. It is your fascinating and impressive drive to constantly be personally honest. Your character shines through every page.

Even though I've read many drafts over the years, you will not believe that I could not put this one down. It is exceptionally well written. That is also a tribute to you and to your constantly testing your ideas with your field of editors.

I hope that it is of comfort to you, after this magnificent and draining effort, to get feedback from people like me who appreciate what you have achieved with this book, how openly and instructively you have written about your life. Your life story is in many ways searing and in many more ways uplifting.

For me, having Joseph Galloway, co-author with LTG Harold Moore, of *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young*, a really fabulous commentary, commenting favorably on *Fearful Odds*, is remarkably valid and well-deserved praise. Even more so, Sol Snyder's last paragraph is as high a compliment as any on Earth, "You do this with greater persuasive power and elegance than I have seen. . ."

How you articulated the most searing relationship in your, or maybe anyone's, life so clearly and caringly is a marvel. You understand. I have never read anything of this nature that effective. Your grandmother, Evangeline Abbott Newhall, would not only be proud, but also would be awed. I have to tell you that, because you would not dare think it on your own!

*Marc P. Blum
Captain, U.S. Army General Staff, 1969-71
CEO, World Total Return Fund Philanthropist*

Ok, so that is the best Vietnam book I have ever read! I feel like I know way too much about your dad and your family, but I could not stop turning pages. I read the whole thing in 2 days. What a legacy and a fantastic family history. This book will be a must-read for my boys. It will also be why they never go to military school! I would break the noses of the lords of discipline.

*Gary Stokes
COO, Novasom*

This book is riveting! With its timeless eloquence and often painful candor, it offers more than a glimpse of the keen mind and the soul of Lt. Charles Newhall, a rare combination of warrior, classical scholar, business leader, patriot and American hero. His portrayal of the 'band of brothers' that assisted his survival during battle in Vietnam and shaped his civilian life long thereafter is unforgettable. The book lacks the typical Hollywood flavor and is accordingly even more powerful in its messages. I can honestly say that Newhall's book taught me important basic knowledge and will offer a similar value to many who read it. Overall, for that reason, it is perhaps the most compelling and valuable book I have read in decades.

*Randolph C. Steer, M.D., Ph.D.
Board Member
Mayo Clinic*

This book would be a great present for a woman and a wonderful choice for a book club. Only relatively recently have women recognized that the trauma they have experienced from date rapes and domestic abuse is, in fact, PTSD, and that a real debt is owed to men like the author who are willing to speak freely about what they have endured. One of the protagonists is the author's grandmother, a woman steeped in military tradition by both heritage and marriage; another is the author's then wife, whose struggle with her own demons would lead her, as still a young mother, to take her own life. The book raises many thought-provoking issues; this reviewer was taken by the understandable, but almost unbearable, rage that erupts at the lethal carelessness of those for whom one is morally and professionally obligated to jeopardize one's life, even to the point of sacrifice.

Many Vietnam vets have not had the successful post-Vietnam life that this author has had, and he readily acknowledges his good fortune at being able to afford extensive counseling. Another major element in his healing was his relationship with art and the cultural milieu that gave rise to each object he has collected. Another factor in his survival and post-Vietnam success as a venture capitalist he admits to owing a perhaps inborn talent of looking ahead to the several directions in which a situation might lead – while always looking behind as well.

*Dr. Ellen Reeder
Curator Antiquities, Walters Museum of Art,
Deputy Director, Brooklyn Museum of Art,
Director, Women's Museum of Art Washington D.C.,
Author: Pandora's Box, The Archeological Collection
of John Hopkins University and Hellenistic Art in the
Walters Art Gallery*

An extraordinary book about an extraordinary life. If this were fiction, one would find it a fascinating read, though those of delicate sensibilities might chastise the author for the graphic depictions of the battlefield carnage. But this is not fiction, and the horrors of war experienced by the author are a reality that every American should know.

There are many reasons why one should read this book. First and foremost, it provides a gripping description of what a soldier faces when exposed to the violence and barbarism of war. We often read about the trauma our troops experience when fighting in foreign lands, and “PTSD” rolls off the tongue far too easily, often with no appreciation for the underlying causes. Countless soldiers returned from Vietnam suffering PTSD, and the vast majority got little or no help or treatment. Tens of thousands of troops returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are also afflicted with PTSD, and their struggles to adjust to “normalcy” are often unknown or minimized. One should have deep empathy for our troops suffering with PTSD after reading this book.

The book should be required reading for every member of Congress and should be re-read before voting to go to war. It should be in every clinician’s office working for the Veterans Administration, and Congress should vote substantial sums to care for veterans suffering with PTSD.

Well written and a compelling read, there are also numerous stories of men with honor and courage, men willing to die for country and for their ‘band of brothers.’ We would not be the free and thriving nation that we are without such men and women. While the warrior’s code may be hard and fierce, without such warriors we are at the mercy of forces far too willing to destroy the freedoms we have. Yes, there can be honor in war, and many honorable men and women have served and serve this country’s interests.

But this book is not just about war, but about the pain and suffering that can follow one after fighting in a war, even if one is courageous and honorable and a true warrior. Everyone who knows a veteran should read this book. One will never understand exactly what that person is thinking or feeling, but one might begin to have a sense of what that person experienced and why he or she deserves care and treatment when suffering from PTSD.

This is also an amazing story about an incredible man whose life is a lesson in courage and will. To have come through his experiences in Vietnam followed by the painful loss with his wife’s suicide and to have achieved the many successes that Mr. Newhall has attests to his remarkable character and deeply held convictions. He is truly an American hero.

Read the book, absorb its many lessons, share it with everyone you know. It will leave an indelible impression and provoke much needed thought about how we deal with veterans. Our troops have not failed us, but as a nation, we often fail them.

Edmund Bujalski
CEO, Hospital Group of America, Inc.
CEO, Nu-Med Psychiatrics, Inc. (division of Nu-Med, which bought HGA)
CEO, AmNet, Inc., which became Ambulance Systems of American, Inc.
(Welsh Carson Company)
CEO, LifeMetrix, Inc.
CEO, Quality Oncology, Inc. – when a division of Matria Healthcare
Bariatric Partners, Inc.
CEO, Alegis Car, LLC
CEO, Physical Rehabilitation Network, LLC
CEO, RiverMend Health, LLC

I was aware of Chuck's military service and Special Forces qualifications and knew he lost his first wife to suicide. I knew Chuck as a quiet, intense, smart and fiercely loyal business colleague. Chuck partnered with entrepreneurs like me to build successful businesses. Ours was a win-win relationship.

I immediately purchased and read *Fearful Odds* and discovered deep insights into Chuck's persona and the terrible reality of modern warfare. I've read many military history books, and I served in the peacetime Army; and *Fearful Odds* brings me closer to war than any prior experience. Yet, this is more than just another war story. His Vietnam experience becomes part of a personal mosaic beginning with childhood family challenges, through his war and subsequent PTSD and further family challenges. He doesn't blame others; he simply describes his successes and failures dealing with it.

As the book ends, we realize that the story, the pain and the battle continue; you must re-win your life over and over again. I deeply recommend *Fearful Odds* for adults and those entering adulthood. I've been profoundly impacted and inspired. At \$6.99 my Kindle copy is a great investment. Why did Chuck publish this? I don't know, but will guess.

'It's not:

Publicity – Chuck is a very private person.

Money – Chuck is a wealthy person.

Sympathy – Chuck is a proud person.

I believe this is Chuck's legacy for his family and all of us. Just as being a warrior requires immense courage, so does sharing your intimate personal story. I'm far better off having read *Fearful Odds*. Thanks, Chuck.

Francis Zenie
CEO Waters Associates and Experion, Zymarza,
Author: Street Smart Entrepreneurship
Trustee: Zenie Foundation

I read *Fearful Odds* and I write to commend your extraordinary effort to organize and communicate facts, thoughts, and emotions. I benefitted from reading *Fearful Odds*.

On a personal note, I admire greatly your courage to communicate and confront PTSD both publicly and privately. I thank you for sharing your experiences and learning so that others may be helped.

Thomas C. Barry
V.P., T. Rowe Prices,
Director of Research & President, New Horizons Fund,
CEO, Rockefeller Financial,
Founder CEO, Zypher Management,
Founder, African Capital Alliance

Chuck,

I am sitting on a beach in Florida, and I just finished *Fearful Odds*. I have been reading it all week. It has touched me deeply. It is extremely well written and powerful, and at times I had to remind myself this was not a work of fiction, but the story of a person I know and admire.

Bravery is demonstrated in many ways. You have demonstrated it in war, in business and in family. Most poignantly for me, is how you have demonstrated it in writing this book. It took a lot of guts and I appreciate your sharing your life story with me and your readers.

I hope in writing this book you have found some level of peace and closure. I have come to learn that it is a constant battle for you. May you always find success in fighting the demons.

Mark I Gruhin
Co-managing partner, Saul Ewing LLP
Author: Whiter Jerusalem, Inside the Minds Internet
Lawyers, Biotechnology Deals

I am writing this note after having just finished your book, *Fearful Odds*. There is a part of me that wonders if it is even my place to write this note. And there is an even bigger part of me that does not know exactly what to say, given that I have never walked in the shoes of a warrior who has faced battle and all of the challenges it entails, both during and after. But these parts are overwhelmed by the part of me that simply wants to say: Thank You. Thank you for your service in Vietnam. And thank you for sharing your story.

As you know, my wife and her family would not be here if it were not for the service of brave souls like yourself. The price to be paid for that service is clearer than ever after reading your book. It brings our family's gratitude to the front of our minds, where it should always be. And it reminds us of how fortunate we are to have men like you serving in our military.
So...Thank you.

Brian Halak
General Partner, Domain Ventures

Thank you very much for giving me a copy of your book. Truly an amazing and inspiring story that in many ways I can relate to and understand. Unfortunately, I am very familiar with and have lived through the scars that a war can leave with us for the rest of our lives.

Lebanon's brutal civil war broke out when I was 14 years old. I lived for 6 years with my family through horrific experiences. I left my country and family behind when I was 20, hoping I can build a better life and a future somewhere. Thanks again for the book, your friendship, and what you have done and continue to do for Supernus.

Jack Khattar
CEO, Supernus Pharmaceutical

I found the book to be incredibly compelling. It is a very powerful story—made more so by the fact that you have actually lived it.

I have known bits and pieces of the story from discussions with you over the years, but *Fearful Odds* pulled it all together. Frankly, I find it hard to get my head around the fact that any one person has lived through and endured all of the challenges you have faced. It is a testament to your character and resolve. And it serves as a great teacher/reminder of the broader costs of war and PTSD.

*Peter Barris
Managing Partner
New Enterprise Associates*

Chuck: I just wanted to let you know that I thoroughly enjoyed your book. Powerful, poignant, gripping, raw, and extremely well written. I know it must have been extremely difficult to write and lay it all out there like you did, but the result was an outstanding read. Most realistic portrayal of the Vietnam experience that I have read.

My generation got a hall pass on military service because we were too young for Vietnam and were too old for the Middle East conflicts of the past 15 years. But I firmly believe that everyone would benefit from 2-3 years of mandatory military service. My brother-in-law, who I was very close to, unfortunately died way too young of a heart attack at age 49. He was a Vietnam veteran who rarely spoke about his experience because he had a difficult time dealing with the killing he had participated in and witnessed while in Vietnam. He suffered from PTSD. I know this book will do a world of good for any of our patriots or other citizens who suffer from this horrible condition. So hats off on a job very well done on many levels.

*Michael Baader
General Counsel
Greenspring Associates
Former Managing Partner
Venable LLP
Baltimore Office*

A very helpful memoir. . . one I will personally use and recommend to others. What a special man he is, with a special story and the ability to tell it in chilling detail

*John Landgraf
President, Landgraf Music*

Thank you for sending me your book. Without courage there would be no first part of the book, and without candor there would be no back part. I think the book can be of great help to many who live with the violence that was produced. It is an even tougher problem for those who as officers and senior NCOs have life and death decisions to make on top of everything else.

*Buzzy Krongard
Executive Director, CIA under George Tenet,
CEO and Chairman of Alex Brown and Sons,
National Lacrosse Hall of Famer, 1st Lt. USMC*

It is a wonderful and courageous work. I've always enjoyed and admired you; now I feel privileged to know you.

*Bill Shiebler
President/CEO, Putnam Mutual Funds,
President/CEO, America's Deutsche Bank,
Asset Manager, Philanthropist*

Chuck, I completed reading your book. When I got to page 114, I wanted to throw it away! I determined your style mirrored Matterhorn and thought your story not only graphic and violent, but somewhat incredulous. For whatever reason, I continued and can't describe the emotional impact I felt. Dr. Kaiser described you as a compulsive narcissist. I was very much taken with your honesty of your personal life.

You describe the Black Dog, I have the Black Hole. Holden Caulfield couldn't get out of the Black Hole, I have to be careful not to fall back in it! Same concept "get over it, keep moving forward." You must take great pride in what you accomplished. My mistake was I always went back to Vietnam, and that was my strength and solace, arrogance, and cavalier attitude toward other people. I think Dr. Snyder suggested that if your story touched one life, you succeeded. I am so glad I finished your book. Congratulations – on all fronts.

Anonymous

Mr. Newhall's book is the first book I have read that's written by a veteran about their military experience during wartime. It took me a long time to read. It was a hard read for me, not because the writing was inept, but because the content and storytelling are so very intense and eloquently presented. I needed to take it slow, to absorb it all and, at times, to try and comprehend what was just shared.

Mr. Newhall opened his heart and soul up to the reader. What an incredibly brave decision he made to do so, and undoubtedly positively impacting the countless veterans and their families who struggled with the battles of PTSD every day, and those who aren't military, but also face the battles of PTSD in their lives.

Joan Carew

Chuck – Thanks for the book. I started it last night and completed it this morning. Interesting that at noon today, I am teaching from a book by Robert Morgan entitled “The Lord is MY Shepherd” on the 23 Psalm written by David – a warrior King. I am teaching on verse 4 – Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. – I have my Zippo lighter from my year in Pleiku in 1968 in my pocket with the version of verse 4 saying “I will fear no evil, for I am the evilest SOB in the valley.” I am praying for you today Ezekiel 36: verses 24-27. My life verse that made me whole after Vietnam! I pray the same for you, my Brother!

Anonymous

We met years ago when I was a junior partner at Salix Ventures, and I had the pleasure of working with Chip of Vantage Oncology. I spent the past eight years at HLM Venture Partners and recently stepped away. John Siegel from Columbia Capital is one of my best friends from college and recently loaned me a copy of your autobiography. You did an incredible job of capturing and describing your life’s journey. You have clearly contributed to our country in so many ways, and you have battled admirably through life’s ups and downs with incredible perseverance, strength and self-awareness. Thank you for sharing your incredible experiences and learnings.

Marty Felsenthal

I just finished the book. Please thank your dad for sharing such a personal and intimate view on his life, its challenges and how he made his way through. It was life enriching to read and helps put in perspective the amazing opportunities we have been given to make a difference in this world. We build on the shoulders of giants!

*Greg Sands
Founder and Managing Partner
Costanoa Venture Capital*

I was going to commit suicide. Your book saved my life.

Anonymous

Fearful Odds takes readers from the deadly jungles of Vietnam, where our young soldiers faced death and injury, to Newhall's return to the U.S. after heroically serving in the military and defending the freedom enjoyed today.

The theme of perseverance and honor is constant throughout *Fearful Odds*. It offers a real and vivid—and, at times, frightening—picture of the incredible challenges our military men and women face in war abroad and at home. Even today, with many in our military serving in war zones in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, *Fearful Odds* is required reading for newbie privates up through the highest of officer ranks.

Newhall shares his ongoing struggles with PTSD, the obstacles he conquered in school and business, and the invaluable lessons that life taught him. While in the Army, he recounts lessons learned. “Tired is careless—careless is dead,” he writes. (Just the advice peppered throughout makes the book a smart buy.)

Page after page, Newhall shares in great detail what he witnessed in Vietnam and then, after discharge from the Army, the skillful ways he applied his military training to succeed in the civilian business world. The personal descriptions of how he cared for his sons and loved and provided for his family, Newhall serves yet once more—as a role model of how a man can be a dependable, loving father and husband. Reading the book, civilians will undoubtedly appreciate Newhall's candor and learn about the incredible sacrifice of our soldiers. Men and women in uniform will also benefit from *Fearful Odds* with a better understanding of what PTSD is about and its effect on soldiers and their families. Spending days and nights fighting the enemy and leading soldiers into battle and achieving success in business, Newhall provides pages of memorable advice. He writes about a captain who believed that leadership “is the art of getting men to accomplish what they believe to be impossible.” It was that same captain who told Newhall that the secret of life is a mirror. “When you look at it every morning, be proud of what you see, what you do, and forget the rest.” Newhall continues that the advice “has done much to simplify my life.”

Whether you wear a uniform, have a loved one in the military, serve the country in the government, run a business, take care of a family, or are finding your way in life, *Fearful Odds* is a book that deserves a spot on your bookshelf. More so, it makes an excellent gift for those you love and care about the most—they will thank you and hopefully pass it on for others to benefit.

Anonymous

Hope this message finds you well. I just wanted to let you know that I just finished your book (Kindle edition!). First and foremost, thank you for your service and for risking your life to help maintain the principles we hold dear as a country. My first experience with our country at war was in 1991, while I was a junior in college and we entered into the first Gulf War to kick Saddam out of Kuwait. It was noticeable to see how much our country rallied around our troops at the time, and I distinctly remember thinking that was a slingshot reaction to the Vietnam era where unfortunately, our troops were not given the support and appreciation for the sacrifices they made.

It is sad that the feelings some had against the Vietnam war translated into feelings against our soldiers and their families. It should never have been that way. Again, thank you for your service. It was also fascinating to read your history of founding NEA and again, the sacrifices you made to get the firm up and running. It was, of course, difficult to read about Marsi, but hopefully therapeutic for you to get the story out and, in some respects, put it behind you. I am grateful to be part of NEA and appreciative that you created the place that provides for me and my family. I am actually a child of immigrants and as a first generation American, so there is no long history here of people making a difference. My parents left their home country with nothing but suitcases after having to leave all of the property behind. . . All to sacrifice for their children and in the process, starting a new story almost from scratch.

I do hope your kids are as appreciative of your sacrifices for them as I am of my parents. Anyway, I felt compelled to send you a short note. Hopefully, you are getting a lot of good feedback about the book.

*Sam D. Cohen
Finance Department
New Enterprise Associates*

Dear Chuck,

I just finished reading your book, *Fearful Odds*. I thank you sincerely for leaving a copy for me at Jack's. Enjoyed seeing him again and admired his single-level home, a style I have become partial to after selling real estate for about 20 years and after reaching my maturity of 78 years, where stairs are ok but not too attractive!

Anyway, Chuck, I would like to say I "enjoyed" your book—but enjoy is not the right word. I read the book, appreciating your Hemingway-like narrative. *Gatsby* and *Catcher in the Rye* characteristics appeared in your story. I walked 4th men with you and followed you through the book with close attention.

I can identify with you somewhat as I attended a private boys' school in Richmond as a day student. I saw several boarders at the school whose parents put them there and then in summer camp to keep them out of the way.

My senior year friend attributes the quote "Heed not the masses, let your conscience be your guide," as my credo. I served on many committees and boards, etc.

Anyway, I always did what I thought was expected of me by my parents, school and, at the time, my church. In other words, I too existed to please others.

As the book progressed, I served beside you, admiring your dedication, survival instincts and your self-questioning. Also, at times, I thought "what a horse's backside" you might have been, but only because you were doing what you thought was right.

Your experiences were horrific. I have experienced the death of a young sailor, the death of a crane operator, the serious injury of my chief boatsman when the two of us were doing something dangerous, and lastly I was the Navy's representative during the unpacking of 47 body bags and the subsequent autopsies of the victims of a 16" gun mount explosion on *USS Iowa BB61*. I cannot equate these experiences with those of your 12-month tour in Vietnam, but clearly have "flashbacks" when I smell specific odors.

When I reached page 228 and following, I found the doctor to be right on target with you and knew that you also knew he was correct. That was a wonderful breakthrough for you.

Chuck, you are one lucky man! You have survived war. You have prospered financially beyond belief. You have a wife who you said has saved you and the boys. And, as does my wife, endured you. Your children are successful and close to you. Physically and mentally you have suffered, but seem to be coping well—one day at a time.

It was my good fortune to have met you and taken you through our battlefield. You are fortunate enough to have friends like Jack and John – and I hope you might include me as a friend, although our contact was very brief.

Again, thank you for the book and the chance to accompany you in your life journey.

Tom Hurt