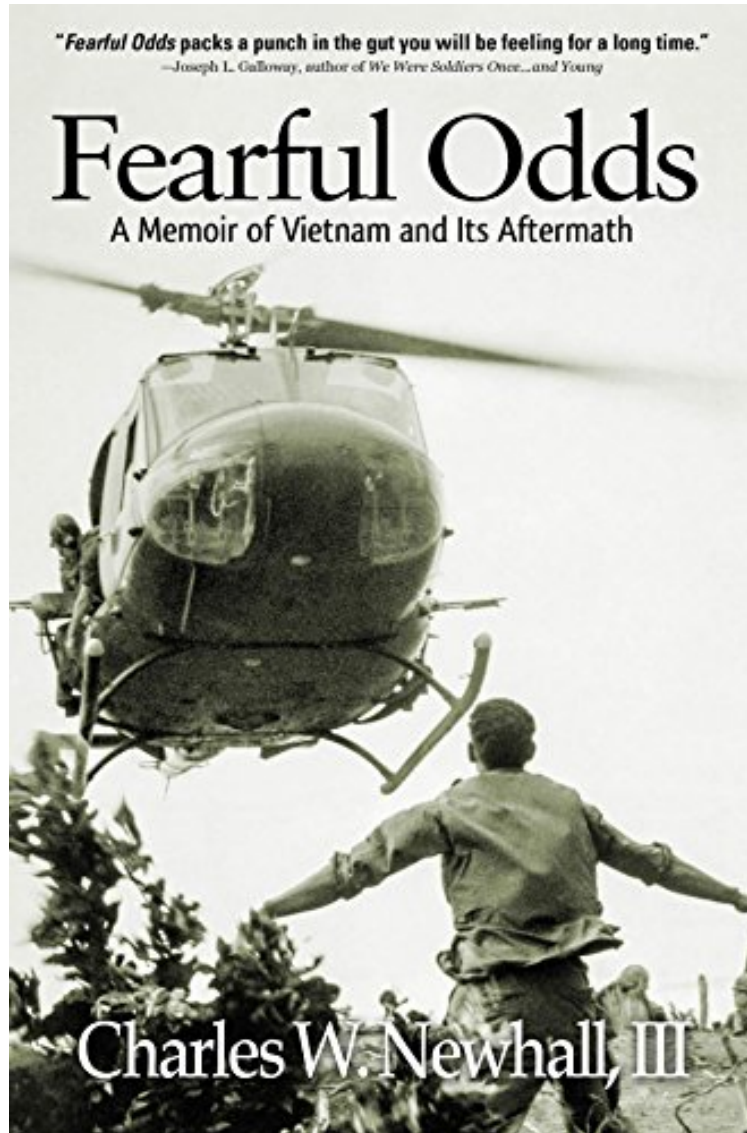


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Fearful Odds: A Memoir of Vietnam and Its Aftermath

Charles W. Newhall

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Charles W. Newhall : Fearful Odds: A Memoir of Vietnam and Its Aftermath before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fearful Odds: A Memoir of Vietnam and Its Aftermath:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. If You Want To Know About Nam...By MarcoI thoroughly enjoyed this book and I am so glad I purchased it. It is honest, graphic, and really opens readers up for discussion of the events in Vietnam. I've watched many Vietnam war documentaries, movies, have read other books and spoken to Vietnam war vets however this book is so unique from everything else in that it offers the realistic personal tale of Mr. Newhall.

Here you get a glimpse into his deepest thoughts and he exposes many things that actually happened in Vietnam that is scarcely found in other texts possibly because it was far from pleasant. He is fearless and you feel like you get to know the person as if he were right there. It has the feel of a novel in that it is captivating and enchanting but it is also very informative, he goes through dates, lists, figures. There is also the underlying message of hope his story especially for many veterans or others suffering from PTSD. This is a book I recommend. It is an easy read, a lot to get through but never dragging. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Powerful Story of War, Life and Success By A.C. Szul Every so often there's a book that impresses readers with its content, tone, honesty and gritty realism. Chuck Newhall wrote such a book. 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 carelessness; carelessness 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 affect 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 government, run a business, take care of a family, or 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. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Special Memoir By Frank Z. I recently received an email from an old friend and business colleague, Chuck Newhall, informing me that he recently published a memoir - "Fearful Odds: A Memoir of Vietnam and Its Aftermath." I first met Chuck in the mid-1970s. My company Waters Associates, now Waters Corporation, had recently gone public and Chuck was a security analyst for the mutual fund company, T. Rowe Price. On Chuck's recommendation, T. Rowe Price invested in Waters. Those were the days when analysts researched and followed companies and their industries, not simply developed financial models to project earnings over the next few quarters. Chuck attended industry trade shows and conferences and frequently visited our company. We spoke frequently. In 1977, Chuck and two colleagues co-founded New Enterprise Associates (NEA), which has grown to become one of our largest and most successful Venture Capital firms. I co-founded Zymark Corporation in 1980 and Chuck and NEA led our first and subsequent investment rounds. Chuck served on Zymark's board until we were acquired in late 1996. 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 and; Chuck is a very private person. Money and; Chuck is a wealthy person. Sympathy and; 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.

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. "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* "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* "The illuminating depictions of sessions with your psychiatrist Dr. Kaiser can be regarded as almost a manual for understanding PTSD and learning how to overcome it. However, unlike the majority of books on the subject, you explain how PTSD can be addressed via depictions of how your own efforts have succeeded to varying extents. Readers will learn far more from your book, which is "real life," than from others." Solomon H. Snyder, M.D. Distinguished Service Professor of Neuroscience, Pharmacology and Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins University "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 people are safely 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 real lives. This is the best book I have read about Vietnam as it was lived and as it still plays out in the lives of real people." Landon Y. (Lanny) Jones, former managing editor *People* and *Money* magazines and the author of *William Clark and the Shaping of the West* "Grabs you with the opening words and never lets go. Powerful and compelling." Steve Huntley, former Editor and Columnist *Chicago Sun Times*

"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 comparably simple-minded remedies. Your volume is far better than the great majority of PTSD books." -Solomon H. Snyder, M.D., Johns Hopkins University Distinguished Service Professor of Neuroscience, Pharmacology and Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins University "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* About the Author Chuck Newhall is a decorated combat veteran of Vietnam, serving with the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division in the A Shau Valley where he earned the Silver Star and two Bronze Stars with V(1st OLC.) He is a co-founder of New Enterprise Associates (NEA), playing a major role in formulating NEA's investment strategy which was instrumental in financing the dramatic changes in both the health care services and pharmaceutical/biotechnology industries. He is Chairman Emeritus of the Mid-Atlantic Venture Capital Association (MAVA) and served on the board of numerous charitable and community institutions including the Greater Baltimore Committee and Baltimore Museum of Art. He received an MBA from Harvard Business School, and an honors degree in English from the University of Pennsylvania. *Fearful Odds* is his first book.