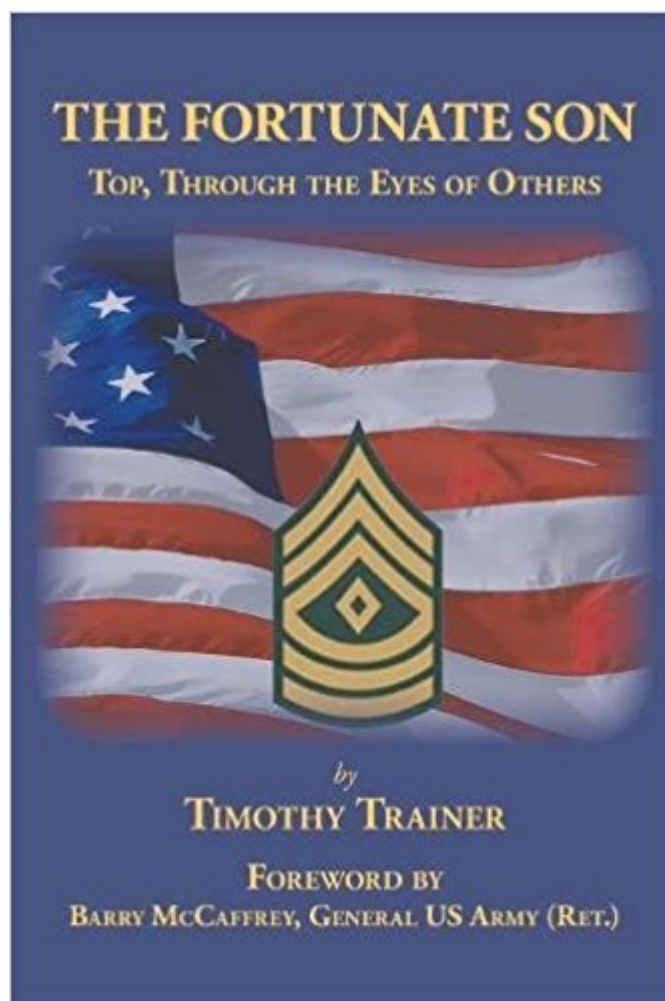


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The Fortunate Son: Top, Through The Eyes Of Others



Synopsis

The Fortunate Son recounts the parallel lives of an army brat and a group of Vietnam veterans who intersect decades after the war. The veterans open up to me, the army brat, perhaps in a way they never have with their own families. Why? Through my father, Top, their First Sergeant, we have a common link. Over the years, we've gotten to know each other. They begin to understand the sacrifices of an army family. But, more importantly, they want me to understand how our family's sacrifice and my father's tour of duty in Vietnam with them, in the jungles, gave them confidence to believe they would make it home alive. The Fortunate Son is not about a single battle or a single soldier's tour of duty. You will meet us, learn something about us, and get a glimpse of our lives during the war years. You'll find out why half a century after that tour of duty ended, we remain bound together. If you've ever been in the military or part of a military family, you'll know that we all are bound together. For those who find the military to be foreign and unknown, our story may help you to understand why it binds so many together. Fourteen of these soldiers have shared their stories. Their stories describe two life transitionsâ "first from civilian teenagers or young men to combat grunts trying to stay alive in the jungleâ "and then back to stateside life. What happens between these transitions, as they slog through the jungle day by day paints their portrait of Top, my father. Now, I appreciate why they remain bound together half a century after their tour ended. Their stories are an unexpected gift that bestows new insight to me on my father. So, as you read and "listen" to these soldiers' stories, both what they say and how they describe Top, you understand why I've learned that I am The Fortunate Son. Author Timothy Trainer is an army brat, born into the Army in Japan and was a high school junior when his father retired from the Army. He did not arrive in the United States until he was past his fifth birthday. After arriving in the United States, the Army life meant living in various parts of the United States, on and off post, depending upon his father's duty station. For more information, visit: TheFortunateSon.com TimothyTrainer.com

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a very moving book covering a piece of American History not normally written about to my knowledge - the Vietnam War from the perspective of the family of a combat veteran in the conflict. Later, the son of this veteran finds the men who served in Vietnam under his father and learns some lessons about the war and his father he otherwise would never have known. Every person in America who was alive during the Vietnam War (1965-75) was touched by this conflict. Mr. Trainer has done all of us a great service by his wonderful memoir.

Reading the firsthand reports of intense firefights took me back to my time in Vietnam. This is a great tribute to a genuine American hero, First Sergeant Emerson Trainer, by a son who also served his country with distinction. Very well done and a must read for vets like me.

As an Army nurse that was in Vietnam in 1970, and knowing one of the men interviewed for the book, it was a "must read" for me. I found it stirred up a lot of memories. Good detail and accurate depiction of what I recall when talking to my patients at the 12th Evac in Cu Chi. War is hell regardless of which side you are on. That those of us who survived, whether intact or maimed, can continue to exist with these memories always just below the surface, demonstrates the strength and fortitude of the human race. These stories need to be told. Thanks Tim Trainer for writing about your Dad and his men.

Something that needed to be written. Growing up during that era, the tales in the book reflect what I've heard from those coming back from their time in Vietnam.

Great book with some good insights about combat and the magnificence of the human spirit.

Being a Vietnam combat wounded veteran while serving with A Company 5/7, D Company 2/7 First Air Cavalry Division { Airmobile } 1966-'67, there is nothing else I can add nor say that the author

has not covered in his book. I truly enjoyed the read. God bless his father "Top" First Sergeant Emerson Trainer General Barry McCaffrey { Ret.}, their soldiers: Dale Beierman; Paul Decker; Rich Dorsey; Gerald 'Jerry" Gast; Edd Holtz; Jesse "Pop" Groves; Fred Hall Jack Jeter; Jon "Snag" Johnson; Michael K. McMahan; Jack "Squirt" Miller; William "Bill" Montgomery; Chris Sayre; Larry "Skinny" Spaulding, and all the brave soldiers who served proudly and gave it all they had. -Joe Sanchez, co-author of True Blue: A Tale of The Enemy Within; Latin Blues; Red Herring: The Stinking Trail...Police Corruption in Washington Heights; and Yellow Streak.

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