

HARLEY TRACKS: Across Vietnam to The Wall

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Minneapolis, MN/June 2015 — Author Mike Rinowski is proud to introduce his book, *HARLEY TRACKS: Across Vietnam to The Wall* (\$29.95/Tracks Press/www.harleytracks.com). In 324 pages, Mike shares a story like no other. How many would expect an opportunity to honor our fallen veterans on the land they saw last? How many would expect to do it extensively on a Harley Davidson?

Mike lives on his terms, prepared for opportunity and adventure. To have a Harley Davidson in Hanoi, Vietnam, was as unexpected as the job offer in 2008. His plan—to make a living and enjoy a ride on his day off—changed a year after his motorcycle arrived. He thought he had made the ride of his life on a road trip from north to south. While he enjoyed the thrills, he considered the Americans lost on that land of beauty and welcome. At the tip of the Mekong Delta, he was drawn to a ride back across Vietnam in their honor, and then return to his career in the golf business. But a job out of the country, and then back, delayed his quest.

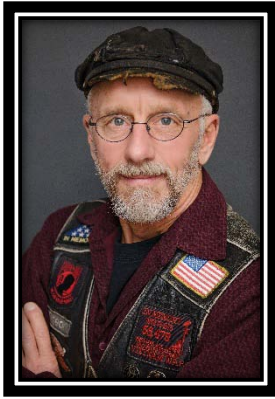
He finally rode from Saigon on Christmas Eve 2011. Six weeks later, after he had crested the tip of Vietnam, he returned without a sense of fulfillment—he had missed something. The call to ride overpowered his concern for career, and faith guided him back onto the trails. He quickly rode into another dimension for those who gave all. From a battleground that held missing in action, his determination grew to live vicariously for them as he rode with a playful vengeance—the solitude of the Ho Chi Minh Trail was a powerful experience. He rode, too, with reckless abandon; he challenged the trails and taunted the elements with a grip on the throttle and a fist in the air. While he bonded with the trails, the terrain, and the spirits, his thoughts went into a combat soldier's tasks and turmoil like never before; their call to a land plagued by generations of war, was, in one way, a call to compromise virtues and values they held dear.

The experience humbled Mike, and the splendor of diverse topography held him in awe. The trails, traffic, and weather entertained him as much as they threatened him. There were encounters, but he and the bike rode away from each one dented, broken, beaten, bruised, or fractured—he was the luckiest rider in Vietnam. After 41,000 miles, he once again thought his journey was complete. But a chance meeting over drinks in Nha Trang led to a poignant conclusion nine thousand miles away.

About the Author

Mike Rinowski's adventurous nature evolved from his earliest years; as his mother recalled with feigned disgust. He began riding motorcycles in 1974, and Harley Davidsons since 1980. His father, a WWII veteran, was the source of his patriotic nature. In 1972, he enlisted in the Army and served in Germany. For more information, please visit his web site at www.harleytracks.com; to schedule an interview with Mike, please call 763 233-2806, or send an e-mail to: 6gear@harleytracks.com. Review copies are available on request.

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Mike's first motorcycle trip rolled out of North Dakota in 1975--his destination was simply east, and then south. In 1977, he rode to Los Angeles by way of Mobile, AL—and returned a year later. While he absorbed the biker lifestyle, rides took on a life of their own; a relationship built between him and the bike as highways, features, and elements became animated. He learned, too, that Einstein was right. Space and time do warp; after a day's ride, distance and hours felt like a blip.

On foot and on motorcycles, in a car and in the air, Mike followed in the tracks of many; from sea to shining sea, from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico; and from the Great Wall of China into the Himalaya, to the Great Barrier Reef and among Komodo Dragons in the wild. Each adventure brought cherished memories and tales to share, and then they passed. No big deal; he looked forward to the next one. But his journey across Vietnam on a Harley Davidson was unique. Many coincidences allowed, and lured, him to go farther than he could have imagined, as if the adventure had chosen him. Many factors could have doomed it—but they didn't.

What started as a simple act of gratitude, evolved into an obligation to honor the memory of fallen veterans. Inspired by other adventurers' trails and tales, he knew he had a story like no other. Mike knew demands for a book would be great, and held no doubt about his commitment or acquiring skills with professional guidance. Although, it would cost him his career, which would make the financial risk greater. At sixty years old, he entered the literary world on his terms with the same faith he rode with. Encouragement carried him through years of writing for confidence in his goal; to share a great story and its rewards, and to help keep those who gave all—not forgotten. After 6,000+ hours, *Harley Tracks: Across Vietnam to The Wall* hit print with a hardcover. Readers felt the wind in their face and footboards grinding through curves. They

laughed with Mike, and shared in sorrow. Many sang along as he stumbled through words in the flower song, too.

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In Praise of Harley Tracks

“If you like motorcycles, ***Harley Tracks* has to be your next book**. It’s an amazing journey Mike took on a Harley Fat Boy—**41,000 miles on a solo pilgrimage to honor those who fought in the Vietnam War**--a journey that offers healing and reconciliation. **The writing is crisp, detailed, and flawlessly edited.**

Henry Zeybel, Editor, Vietnam Veterans of America Magazine.

“**There have been many books and other media projects about epic bike trips** to, from, and around the most precarious points on this globe—**but none are like this one**. *Harley Tracks* combines adventure, education, a global history lesson, and a poignant personal path that is **brazen, brave, and seriously badass!**”

Bill Hayes, Author of The Original Wild Ones, American Biker, and more.

“**A ride that takes on a life of its own is the dream of every motorcycle rider**. When it’s a four-year adventure across every part of a land that was once hostile, **it’s epic.**”

Wayne Worden, Vietnam Veteran, President, Faithful Warriors.

“***Harley Tracks* is a unique story about freedom** and a nation once an enemy—now a friend. **One can see that all we fought for was not in vain.**”

Dave Barr, Vietnam Veteran, Author of Riding the Edge, Riding the Ice, and more.

“**Closing the loop** at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. was **a poignant and perfect conclusion to his epic ride.**”

Jerry Connor, President, National Veterans Awareness Organization.

“A wonderful story of **one man and his Harley Davidson on a once in a lifetime journey.**”

Steve “Headdog” Moore, President, The Wall Gang Inc.

“Not only is it **a motorcycle ride like no other** but he rides across a land with a story of its own that needs to be told. I think Mike was born to write this story. **The book has the power to take you on the trip with Mike** as he visits history that needs a voice like his to tell the story.”

Larry Tank, USMC, HDBitchin.com

“Your words amaze me. **Heartfelt!** You captured the country and the people.”

Mike Swinscoe, Vietnam Veteran

“I appreciated the deep respect you had for my fellow soldiers, sailors, and airmen along the way. I was most struck by your pronouncement in The Swan Song Ride—“Brothers, FALL IN! It’s time to go home.**” I believe they all heard you.”**

Tom Campbell, Vietnam Veteran, SEAL Team One