

# HARLEY TRACKS: Across Vietnam to The Wall

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## Press Release

Author Mike Rinowski is proud to introduce his book, *HARLEY TRACKS: Across Vietnam to The Wall* (\$29.95/Hardcover). Each year across America, millions of people ride their motorcycles to honor of our fallen veterans; Mike took the opportunities to ride for them across the land they saw last. There are no tracks like *Harley Tracks*, and in 324 pages, Mike shares a story like no other.

In 1997, adventure and employment in the golf course business lured Mike to Asia. Jobs came and went, and in 2008, he accepted a job offer in Hanoi, and to get a Harley Davidson there was unexpected, too. He'd never been to Vietnam, and with America's past association he wondered about acceptance; but those concerns were quickly relieved. Life was good: he felt comfortable with a contract and rode at his desire. When he met other riders, they told him, "Nobody rides alone around here." They warned him, and then told him about a new highway that nobody used.

His journey evolved from joy rides between jobs in Hanoi and Nha Trang. Near a town few people knew about on the southern tip, it turned into a quest; to ride for our fallen veterans, in the spirit of freedom, across the land they saw last—on a Harley Davidson; how cool was that, he thought. But he found that a ride simply in memory of them wasn't enough. On the land they saw last, there was more he should do, but what? He put work aside and let faith be his guide, and his quest rolled into a journey that tallied 41,000 miles alone across Vietnam. From a chance meeting with a veteran in Nha Trang, his journey went full circle with a ride across America to the Vietnam War Memorial, aka The Wall, in Washington, D.C. It ended with a joy ride through Canada four and a half years later.

Not bad for an unexpected road trip!

*Harley Tracks* takes you on the ride of a lifetime—a ride with a playful vengeance for those who never had the chance. Seven times he rode across a land of beauty and welcome; from the lunar region in the north, through jungle and mountains along every kilometer of the Ho Chi Minh Trail, into the wrath of monsoons, over the Highlands, and into the swelter of the Mekong Delta.

Veterans, riders, and non-riders connect with his story. Mike felt what they would have felt; the thrills, the honor, a bond with the spirits, and the overwhelming emotions in the solitude of battlegrounds.

**About the Author:**

Born into a boom generation in 1953, Mike Rinowski’s free-spirited nature evolved from his earliest years in northwest Minnesota. A mid-life career change from railroad service to the golf course business opened doors to greater travels and adventures. Those led to a ride that had to be made and story that had to be told. After fifteen years in Asia, Mike returned to Minnesota, where he volunteers for community service, supports veteran’s causes, and promotes *Harley Tracks* at venues across America.

For more information, visit his web site: [www.harleytracks.com](http://www.harleytracks.com), or contact him at: [track@harleytracks.com](mailto:track@harleytracks.com).

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## Mike Rinowski Author

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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 on his ride across Vietnam, there were no tracks before him. Many coincidences 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 our fallen veterans like never before. Mike knew he had a story like no other and demands to write a book would be great, but he held no doubt about his commitment to a professional presentation worthy to them and a reader. Although, it would cost him his career, which increased the financial risk to his retirement. At sixty years old, he entered the literary world in the same faith that he rode with. Mike's told many stories, but until he wrote *Harley Tracks*, none had ever been called poignant and epic, or brazen, brave, and seriously badass.

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## In Praise of Harley Tracks

**“I mostly avoid the Vietnam stuff, however, a very good friend sent me your book—  
I read all of it on Sunday.”**

John A. Shaver, Jr. - Vietnam Veteran

**“If you like motorcycles, *HARLEY TRACKS* has to be your next book.”**

Henry Zeybel - Editor: *Vietnam Veterans of America Magazine*

**“There have been many books about epic bike trips—but none are like this one: brazen, brave,  
and seriously badass.”**

Bill Hayes - Author: *The Original Wild Ones & American Biker*

**“It’s epic.”**

Wayne Worden - Vietnam Veteran

**“I appreciated the deep respect you had for my fellow soldiers, sailors, and airmen.”**

Tom Campbell - Vietnam Veteran, SEAL Team One

**“One can see that all we fought for was not in vain.”**

Dave Barr - Vietnam Veteran, Author: *Riding the Edge & Riding the Ice*

**“A great book.”**

Clayton Gullickson - Vietnam Veteran

**“I’m 74 and have no experience with motorcycles. My first thoughts were, **what a brave guy &  
what the heck—is this guy crazy!** I truly loved the ending of your book.”**

Carol Slater - St. Paul MN

**“The best buy I made at the **Sturgis 75<sup>th</sup>**.”**

Jeff - Biker

**“An incredible ride. No one I know could have made a ride even close to yours.”**

Lawrence Beutlich - Vietnam Veteran, Author: *Pa’s Big Adventure*

**“The book has the power to take you on the trip.”**

Larry Tank - USMC

**“I’ve often wanted to go back. **You helped me see another Vietnam**, and it sounds like a great  
place with much beauty.”**

Gary Wells - Vietnam Veteran

**“Your words amaze me. **Heartfelt!**”**

