

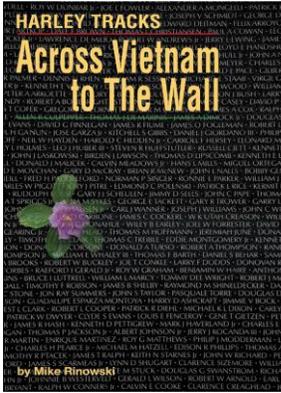
HARLEY TRACKS

Across Vietnam to The Wall



by Mike Rinowski

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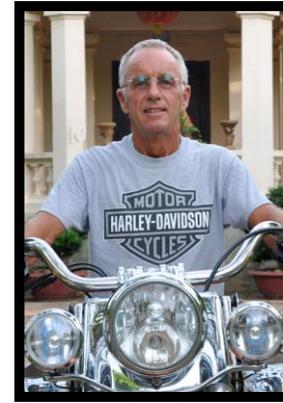


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Spiritual Journey—with a Handful of Throttle

To honor our fallen veterans with a ride—41,000 miles across Vietnam on a Harley Davidson; who would imagine that opportunity?

To feel freedom like never before, to be an American like never before, and to feel the presence of those you ride for; who would imagine being centered in that triad?

To receive kindness from those who remembered the wrath of American firepower; who would imagine that?

Mike Rinowski didn't imagine any of that.

Mike served in the Army during the Vietnam War Era, but not in Vietnam. In 2008, he went to Hanoi to build golf courses, and to import a Harley was as much of a surprise as the job. Despite warnings about riding alone, he was determined to enjoy a pastime he missed during the twelve years he'd been working in Asia.

When his contract crumbled, joy rides filled his schedule while he networked for his next job, possibly in another country. His awareness to the loss on that land of beauty and welcome grew into an obligation; to honor those who died in the war with a ride across Vietnam—on a Harley Davidson. How cool was that, he thought! He could not have imagined how far that obligation would take him. A ride simply in memory of them wasn't enough; on the land they saw last, there had to be something more, but what?

He put work aside and returned to the trails with faith as his guide. In silence on old battlegrounds and solitude of jungle on the Ho Chi Minh Road, he crossed a threshold and bonded with the spirits of his generation. He lived vicariously for them and rode with a playful vengeance—fearlessly and

foolishly, taunting the trails, the threats, and the elements with a handful of throttle and a fist in the air, and he willed those wild sensations to the fallen.

After seven trips across Vietnam in the spirit of freedom, he thought his quest was over. The experience was too much to keep for casual stories, so, as he rode in faith, he wrote in faith. However, had he not met a veteran, at the Texas BBQ in Nha Trang, his story would have been incomplete and he wouldn't have known it. With him, it rolled full circle, in 2013, with a ride across America to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, aka The Wall, in Washington D.C.

Not bad for an unexpected road trip!

Mike's story, in *Harley Tracks: Across Vietnam to The Wall*, conveys the essence of American character; that of a free-spirited and patriotic nature.

*Veterans and non-veterans, riders and non-riders, and the young and otherwise connect with *Harley Tracks*, to include, Tom Campbell, a Vietnam Veteran, SEAL Team One, who said, "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 chapter called The Swan Song Ride, "Brothers, **FALL IN!** It's time to go home." I believe they all heard you."

Paul Ittner, of Minneapolis said, "**The poetic, lyrical, and colorful descriptions** of the people and landscapes really came alive. You kept the focus on honoring our veterans. **I laughed, cried, studied, and wondered in awe** as I read your book."

About the Author

Mike was a guy with few responsibilities who liked to ride and saw opportunities that had to be taken; he felt an obligation that millions of people would have felt the same. Adventure has always lured him more than stability, possessions, or wealth. He risked the security of his retirement when he left his career to fulfill his obligation and write about it.

Mike returned to Minnesota where he promotes *Harley Tracks*, supports veterans causes, and drives school bus.

Harley Tracks is available at: www.harleytracks.com

Profit supports veterans and their families.

More Excerpts from Readers' Comments

“If you like motorcycles, **Harley Tracks has to be your next book.** Every day was an adventure. 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—but **none are like this one**--brazen, brave, and seriously badass.”

Bill Hayes – Author: *The Original Wild Ones, American Biker, & Hell on Wheels*

“**The best purchase I made** at the Sturgis 75th Anniversary.”

Jeff – Biker

“**It’s epic.**”

Wayne Worden, Vietnam Veteran

“Your words amaze me. **Heartfelt!**”

Mike Swinscoe, Vietnam Veteran

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

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

“I’ve often wanted to go back. **You helped me see another Vietnam.**”

Gary Wells, Vietnam Veteran

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

Lawrence Beutlich—Vietnam Veteran, Author: *Paw’s Big Adventure*

“**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

“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