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'Have We Forgotten' examines the toll the Vietnam War took on South Dakota families

Lee Raines' 8th book is expected by Spring 2027



Lee Raines' 8th book, ***Have We Forgotten,*** memorializes the stories of the more than 200 South Dakota young men who lost their lives in service of their country during the Vietnam War. This book will join three of his wartime tributes to the sons and daughters who served their country.

In ***Service to Country, South Dakota Style,*** Raines shared the experiences of more than 750 veterans from the Brown County area, the sons and daughters who served during World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts.

In ***1940-1945, We Will Remember,*** the author used his grandmother's diary and news of the day during the war years of 1940-45 to depict rural South Dakota during World War II. This local military history juxtaposed daily farming responsibilities such as rendering lard, selling eggs and harvesting the crops with local community response to war supply shortages and the inevitable but tragic mourning of the deaths of its sons and daughters. Exhaustive efforts culminated in a list of those in the Brown and Day county areas who served and who made the greatest sacrifice. Historical battle narratives, military successes and failures throughout the war, and the

impact of the war on local economies, demographics and the families of the area are also explored.

In ***Getting Off the Mountain,*** Raines followed the life and struggles of Fredric Hensel, the only combat "basket case" of World War II. Hensel lost all four limbs in varying severity, earning the military term "basket case," as the result of a tank mine explosion during the Battle of Okinawa. The book traces the inspiring story of Hensel's roots, his life before joining the army, combat experiences and the challenges and victories upon his return to the States.

And in ***Have We Forgotten,*** Raines identifies the young men who gave their lives in service to their country. For each soldier, Raines builds a story of their untimely death and provides the reader with details of their service as well as a narrative of growing up in South Dakota. The chronological account begins in 1964, when the first soldier from Leola, SD, Raymond Alvin Adam, died in the line of service. The last South Dakota solder to die serving his country, Steven Allen Trant, from Custer, died in 1972.

All of Raines' books can be found on leeraines.com.

This book is another labor of love for Lee Raines, which features his deep research, attention to detail and numerous personal interviews to document the sacrifice of military veterans and the impact their service has on their families.

Though he has lived in Texas, and most recently Florida, since the late 1980s, Raines considers his early years in South Dakota as formative and influential on his values and success today. He was born in Britton, SD, in 1953 and grew up in Groton. He served in the US Army from 1972-

76, and upon returning from the service earned a business degree in 1978 from University of South Dakota. His 45-year career has involved many facets of finance and management.