

Decorated Vietnam War correspondent – Joe Galloway is friend and supporter of WW II Merrill's Marauders

by Jonnie Melillo Clasen

Joseph "Joe" Galloway, 77, an influential, internationally-known war and foreign correspondent for more than half a century, is probably best known for coauthoring with the late LTG Hal Moore the book, "We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young."

That book, published in 1992 about

the horror of the 1965 battle of Ia Drang Valley, the first major battle of the Vietnam War, became a 2002 movie starring Mel Gibson.

In 1965, Galloway was a young noncombatant UPI reporter-photographer assigned to cover the Vietnam War, and was with the 1st Cavalry Division. "I soldiered on for UPI until the Fall of 1966 and left, swearing I would never return to Vietnam," said Galloway. "UPI sent me back in 1971, 1973 and again in 1975 for the end of it."

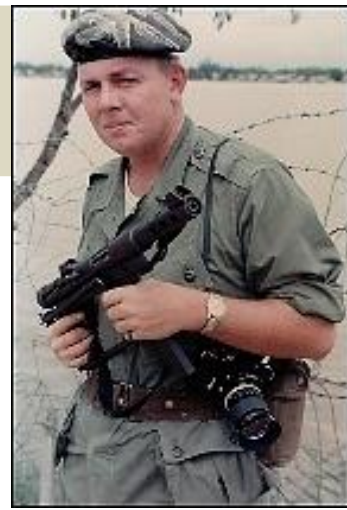
He returned many times after that to gather information for his books and to aid in production of documentaries. In 1993, Galloway, LTG Moore and other American veterans visited 1965 combat sites accompanied by half a dozen North Vietnamese generals who had fought against them.

"We have broken bread with them in their homes in Hanoi," said Galloway. "There is no hatred, only a shared relief that at least some of us survived to carry the memories of those who died, and bear witness to the horror of this war and all wars."

Galloway's heroic actions in November 1965 resulted in his being awarded in 1998 a Bronze Star Medal with "V" for Valor for rescuing wounded soldiers under fire in the Ia Drang Valley. He is the only civilian awarded a combat medal from the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. The late GEN H. Norman Schwarzkopf called Galloway "the finest combat correspondent of our generation -- a soldier's reporter and a soldier's friend."

Galloway had a decades-long friendship with the late Merrill's Marauder and retired LTG Sam Wilson, who helped create Delta Force. Galloway is a champion for Merrill's Marauders, and has assisted in publicizing on-going efforts for the unit to be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. He also supports efforts of Tim Gray with the WW II Foundation to produce a PBS-style documentary about Merrill's Marauders.

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CAPTIONS: Joe Galloway -- Top Right

*** (Above) Three of his Vietnam War photos.

Directly below – L to R Joe Galloway (R) at Ft. Benning with Marauder Vincent Melillo, one month before his death Dec. 24, 2015, at 97.

*** (Center - R) Marauder and retired LTG Sam Wilson with Marauder Raleigh Naves, 96.

*** (Far - R) LTG Sam Wilson (L,) who died in 2017 at 93, with Marauder spokesperson and historian Bob Passanisi, 94.

