
PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VIETNAM BOOK HIGHLIGHTS AMERICA'S LONGEST WAR

OREGON, WI, November 10 -- "Joni, I think I'm going." Those were the last words Robert "Bullet" Peterson said to his wife before he died in her arms of a heart attack in 1994. His death culminated a quarter-century struggle to cope with paraplegia caused by wounds he suffered in Vietnam as well as the emotional scars of post-traumatic stress syndrome.

But Peterson's life has its highs as well as lows. He served a decade as village president of a place appropriately named Soldiers Grove, Wis. And he penned a gripping account of his Vietnam War service that his wife made her mission to get published after his death.

Rites of Passage: Odyssey of a Grunt by Robert "Bullet" Peterson has been called one of the best Vietnam War memoirs. Besides accounts of the daily struggle to stay alive and return home, it also traces Peterson's evolution from green recruit to seasoned veteran.

"We were young men in search of our destiny, our kismet; filled with the piss and vinegar of our years," Peterson writes. "I wondered -- how tough could it be? This was just a little piss-ant country that nobody could find on a map. this wasn't a real war -- this was just Vietnam."

Here's what people say about *Rites of Passage*:

"Of the many memoirs to emerge from the Vietnam War, *Rites of Passage* is one of the best."

-- Michael E. Stevens, editor, *Voices from Vietnam*

"It is a testimony to the call to duty and the terror of war."

-- Neil Shively, former reporter, *Milwaukee Sentinel*

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Badger Books Inc.

Waubesa Press

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Online catalog: <http://www.execpc.com/~badgerb>

Rites of Passage: Odyssey of a Grunt

Fact Sheet

TITLE: *Rites of Passage: Odyssey of a Grunt*

AUTHOR: Robert "Bullet" Peterson

PUBLICATION DATE: April 1997

PRICE: Hardcover: \$25; trade paperback: \$14.95

FORMAT: 5.5x8.5 hardcover and trade paperback

ISBN: Hardcover: 1-878569-48-6; trade paperback: 1-878569-45-7

CATEGORY: Non-fiction; memoir; biography; military

IMPRINT: Badger Books Inc.

PAGES: 396

SUMMARY: A day-to-day account of the dramatic struggles of a front-line soldier during the Vietnam War.

DISTRIBUTION: General bookstores or directly from Badger Books Inc. P.O. Box 192, Oregon, WI 53575 for \$25 (hardcover) or \$14.95 (softcover) plus \$3 shipping.



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Joni Peterson

Joni Peterson of Soliders Grove is an art teacher in Viroqua and the wife of Robert "Bullet" Peterson, author of *Rites of Passage*, a book about his struggles during the Vietnam War.

After her husband died in 1994, Joni Peterson worked hard to get her husband's book published. She also wrote an introduction for the book that is an account of her husband's struggles with post-traumatic stress syndrome and paraplegia he suffered as a result of his war wounds.

Her husband's death and her life with him remains vivid for Joni. Their marriage included remarkable successes and disheartening struggles as he tried to cope with unshakable combat experiences. But he also served a decade as Soldiers Grove village president and was active in Vietnam veterans' groups.