



As a Vietnam Veteran I have had to endure for thirty years the humiliating caricatures of my brothers-in-arms who faithfully served their country in this nation’s longest war. But, we who served — who “were soldiers once and young” — *know* the truth and will *never* forget. The bonds of brotherhood can never be broken—so we say to Colonel Richard Rescorla: “Farewell Brother and may you rest in the peace you’ve so valiantly earned. You are not alone, Sir. You are not alone.”

Michael Fitzgerald, 25th Infantry Division, RVN 1970-1971.

This obituary appeared in the New York Times:

COL. RICHARD C. RESCORLA

A Hero’s Life (and Death)

Legendary Vietnam warrior. Poet and quoter of Shakespeare and Proust. Criminal justice professor. Screenplay author.

Col. Richard C. Rescorla, the head of security for Morgan Stanley Dean Witter’s individual investor group, was a big man who lived large and died a hero, barking out orders on a megaphone in a smoke-choked stairwell and personally seeing to it that Morgan Stanley lost only 6 of its 3,700 employees on Sept. 11.

Colonel Rescorla, 62, was carrying out the evacuation plan he had drawn up and repeatedly rehearsed after the 1993 bombing [of the World Trade Center]. He grew up in England, joined the British Army, and moved here in 1963 to fight with the United States Army in Vietnam. He led a platoon through the notorious valley of Ia Drang, where more than 200 American soldiers died; a battlefield photo of him graces the cover of the 1992 best seller “We Were Soldiers Once and Young.”

At a gathering of Ia Drang veterans in 1992, Colonel Rescorla, who leaves a wife and two children in Morristown, N.J., described his vision of facing death: “A man is dying down there in the valley, and what do you do? You hold him in your arms and you say to him -- it’s all you can say to him — you say: ‘You’re not alone, son. You’re not alone.’ And he’s gone.”