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.”


This obituary appeared in the New York Times:

COL. RICHARD C. RESCORLA

A Hero’s Life (and Death)


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 mega-phone 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.”