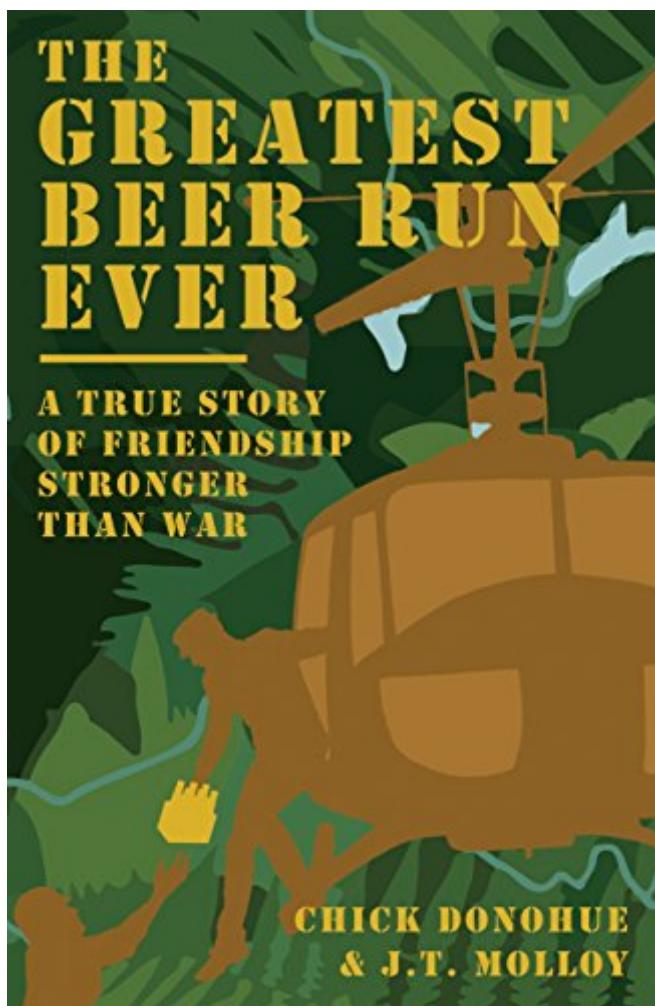


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The Greatest Beer Run Ever: A True Story Of Friendship Stronger Than War



Synopsis

In 1967, John (Chick) Donohue was a 26-year-old U.S. Marine Corps veteran working as a merchant seaman when he was challenged one night in a New York City bar. The men gathered at this hearth had lost family and friends in the ongoing war in Vietnam. Now, they were seeing protesters turn on the troops. One neighborhood patriot proposed an idea many might deem preposterous: One of them should sneak into Vietnam, track down their buddies in combat, and give each of them messages of support from back home, maybe some laughs and beer. Chick volunteered for the mission. He sailed to Vietnam on a cargo ship carrying a backpack full of American beer, landing in Qui Nho in 1968. Things went awry when Chick got caught in the Tet Offensive, starting in the early hours as an eyewitness to the battle to retake the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, where he became stuck for months. Chick Donohue later became legendary as "the sandhog who went to Harvard." He worked for decades on behalf of New York's tunnel builders as the legislative and political director of Sandhogs Local 147. This is the story of his epic beer run to Vietnam, in his own words and in those of the men he found in the war zone. "The Greatest Beer Run Ever" is the astounding true story of a young man's odyssey. On these pages we accompany Chick Donohue as he takes us on a fantastic voyage from the streets of Manhattan via the high seas to the jungles and cities of Vietnam at the height of a war fought mostly by forgotten blue collar kids. Back in 1968, Donohue was a man on a singular mission to prove to the soldiers and Marines from the neighborhood that they were not forgotten and never would be. On the way, Donohue lets no obstacle get in his way or not bemused military officials startled by his presence in a combat zone nor Viet Cong rocket fire. This book is both a testament to the fading notions of loyalty and brotherhood and an elegy for the working class enclaves that once formed the backbone of a city and nation. Thomas Kelly, Author of "Payback," and executive producer, "The Rackets," and "Empire Rising," and "Copper," and "The Get Down," and "Civil," and "John (Chickie) Donohue happens to be one of the best storytellers anywhere. He knows that though life may be funny, it is no joke. In this book you

will see through his eyes the absurdity of the human condition. Chickie takes us thousands of miles on a hilarious quest laced with sorrow, but never dull. You will laugh and cry, but you will not be sorry that you read this rollicking story.â•âœ MALACHY McCOURT, legend, and co-author, â“Death Need Not Be Fatalâ•âœ

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a masterful book, the unbelievable and until now, the unheralded story of the amazing life of Chick Donahue. I read this book straight through in one sitting, I could not put it down. Chick is a man of valor and integrity, who risked his life to improve the lives of others. As a Veteran, a Sand Hog, a Union Leader, and raconteur, we all owe a debt of gratitude to Chick Donahue. I highly recommend this book, do give yourself a gift and get a bit of Chick in your life.

It is a great story and, as a person that has known the protagonist, Chick Donohue, for years, I am happy to say that his co-author, Joanna Molloy, has captured "the voice" of this great storyteller

perfectly. It is a story of "the old neighborhood", the Vietnam War, friendship, courage -- and lunacy, Buy it! Read it! Give it to others!

Read it from cover to cover in one sitting. It's a remarkable story and a very entertaining read. This should be a movie! Would definitely make a worthwhile Father's Day gift too!

You want to understand the grit, moxie and loyalty of a NYC Irishman this book does the job. As a grandson of Inwood Campbell's & Hells Kitchen Treacy's I'd say Mr. Donohue did Inwood proud! Great story! I can't believe a big publishing house didn't grab this up & run with it. But I suspect because most of those are run by silver-spoon elite they couldn't understand self-interest not being #1 in Mr. Donohue's life. This is a movie! Congrats!

A true story from the 60s that shows not only friendship and endurance by our troops in nam but of their friends at home in upper Manhattan area of Inwood. These friendships have endured as well.

I grew up in Inwood with Chickie! An amazing story, absolutely loved the book! Reading all the names of the people we knew was like a walk down memory lane.

It was pretty good.

Very good read

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