

## FOR MEDIA, PRESS, & PUBLICITY INQUIRIES

### *Chariots in the Sky*

*A Story About U.S. Assault Helicopter Pilots at War in Vietnam*

Larry A. Freeland, Author

What follows are some reasons why businesses involved in selling books will want to carry *Chariots in the sky* and readers/customers will want to purchase the novel:

If you enjoyed reading *We Were Soldiers Once and Young* and *Band of Brothers*, you will love *Chariots in the sky*.

1. A limited number of books have been written about the helicopter aspect of the Vietnam War. Many of those written have been autobiographies or biographies. The author has written this novel as a historical fiction story. He didn't want it to be a story about one man's or one aircrew's personal experiences in Vietnam or a compilation of such stories. But rather, he wanted to take the reader on a ride through the eyes and exploits of one fictional character, Captain Taylor St. James. **Taylor is the embodiment of a combat helicopter pilot in Vietnam.** It is through his exploits and adventures that the reader will gain a better understanding of what it was like for pilots and aircrews during the Vietnam War. Those who served in Vietnam as pilots and aircrew members may certainly relate to some of Taylor's experiences, thoughts, and feelings about the Vietnam War. For those readers who may not be familiar with that period of America's collective history, it is the authors hope that they find this reading experience insightful, educational and rewarding.
2. Central to the story is Taylor's participation in the largest sustained helicopter operation of the War, Lam Son 719. Most Americans have never heard of this Operation or what occurred. If you liked "We Were Soldiers Once and Young" and "Band Of Brothers," this book is a must-read. Lam Son 719 occurred in February and March of 1971 and involved the 101st Airborne Division supporting South Vietnamese forces. This historical campaign lasted for sixty days and involved over 750 helicopters flying in and out of Laos, supporting the South Vietnamese incursion into Laos. The entire helicopter fleet of the 101st, augmented by other U. S. Aviation units in South Vietnam, supported this incursion. Lam Son 719 was the costliest period of helicopter warfare for the Americans. More helicopters were shot down and sustained battle damage than any other period during the Vietnam War. **Who wants to be the last man killed in Vietnam?**

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3. Join Captain Taylor St. James, along with his friends and comrades, as they fly harrowing combat missions, provide cover for each other, deal with bad weather, mechanical problems, and human error during the latter part of the Vietnam War. When not flying, they are harassed by rocket attacks and sappers in the wire. Taylor discovers the North Vietnamese are not his only enemy as he copes with the pressures put on him by a commander more interested in personal glory than his men's well-being. **While performing his duties, Taylor will be challenged and tested beyond any measure he could have ever envisioned.** If you come along for the ride, you can be guaranteed you will not be disappointed.

### **The author has already obtained or received the following commitments to date:**

- Three local newspapers have written articles about his book which appeared in their newspapers during February. They are the Forsyth County News, Dawson County News, and Gainesville Times. The Panama City News Herald-Bay County, Florida ran an article about his book in February. They are posted on the authors website. The Dahlonega Nugget will be running an article preceding the release of *Chariots in the Sky*.
- The American Legions, Legiontown U.S.A. has posted an article about his book on their legiontown.org website on March 4th.
- The militray.com website posted the Panama City News Herald article on their "Under the Radar-Entertainment News" section in late February. This website is visited by active duty, retired military, veterans and their families across the globe.
- The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA) is currently reviewing *Chariots in the Sky* and will place their review in the VHPA Aviators magazine. This magazine is issued every two months to over 8,500 active members.
- The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), will list *Chariots in the Sky* in their "Members Book" section of the Military Officer magazine. This magazine is published monthly nationwide to a large membership of active, retired and honorably discharged Military officers.
- Helicopter Life Magazine, which is published in the UK, is doing a book review for their quarterly publication. Their review should be on-line in March or April.
- In late February, the author was interviewed by George Nolly of the "Ready for Takeoff" podcast. His interview should appear on George Nolly's podcast site in late March.
- The Independent Book Publishers Association will be profiling 44 books in a Special Edition of Publishers Weekly on April 26, 2021. *Chariots in the Sky* will be one of them.
- The Corvette Museum store in Bowling Green Kentucky will carry a supply of *Chariots in the Sky* in paperback once it is published.  
The Corvette Museum store has also invited the author to attend the annual "Vets in Vetts" four-day program in early November 2021 for a book signing. This offer is contingent on the status of the Covid-19 situation.

**These are two review summaries that appear on the back cover of the book, many more are to follow:**

"*Chariots in the Sky* is a harrowing combat helicopter ride through wartime Vietnam. This fast-paced experience of war comes to life through the eyes and exploits of Army assault helicopter pilot, Captain Taylor St. James. It is a dramatic and exciting story that puts you right in the middle of the action. Read this for a solemn appreciation of what it was like for our assault pilots and crews fighting the war in Vietnam."

LCDR B. Hood, USNR

"I thoroughly enjoyed this book. There are very few books that I start and don't want to put down. This is one of them. It is an eye-opening look into the world of American helicopter aircrews at war in Vietnam."

Ray Brown

## *Chariots in the Sky*

### Short summary

A dedicated U. S. Army Assault helicopter pilot in Vietnam just wants to do his job and return home to his wife and family. To do so, he has to survive harrowing combat missions, bad weather, mechanical problems, human error and a commander who is more interested in personal glory and promotion than his men's well-being. Along the way he participated in the last major American combat operation of the war. Lam Son 719, a major incursion into Laos, lasted sixty days and was the costliest period of the war for helicopter pilots and crew members. This is his story.

### Brief Biography



Larry Freeland is a resident of Dawson County, Georgia. He was born in Canton, Ohio and raised across this country. After graduating from College, Larry joined the US Army. He served one tour in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division and was awarded several military service medals. Upon leaving the service in 1973, he returned to civilian life and pursued a career in the Financial Industry for 32 years. He was an instructor in the Management and Leadership Development Program with Lanier Technical College for 6 years. He is now retired and stays involved in various community activities.

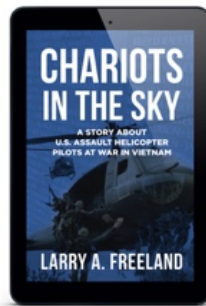
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For more information and to contact author Larry A. Freeland to schedule interviews, you may contact him via his website at <http://LarryFreeland.com>

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