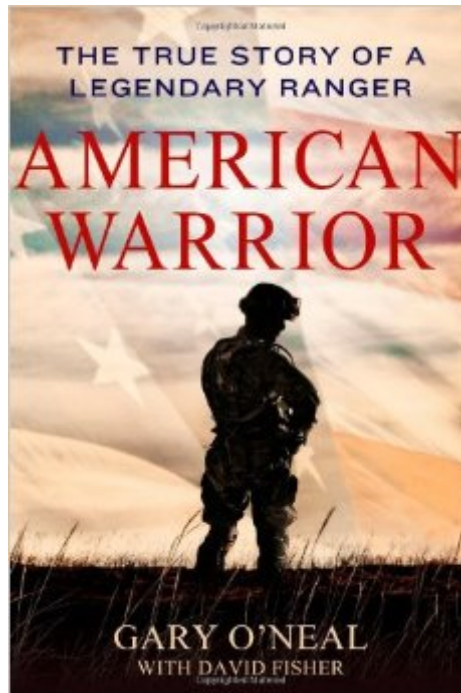


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# American Warrior: The True Story Of A Legendary Ranger



## Synopsis

The epic story of one of America's greatest soldiers, Ranger Hall of Fame member Gary O'Neal, who served his country for forty years. Chief Warrant Officer Gary O'Neal is no ordinary soldier. For nearly forty years, he has fought America's enemies, becoming one of the greatest Warriors this nation has ever known. Part Native American, O'Neal was trained in both military combat and the ways of his native people, combining his commitment to freedom with his respect for the enemy, his technical fighting skills with his fierce warrior spirit. From his first tour in Vietnam at seventeen to fighting in both Gulf wars, O'Neal was nothing less than a super soldier. A minefield of aggression bordering on a justice-seeking vigilante, O'Neal kept fighting even when wounded, refusing to surrender in the face of nine serious injuries and being left more than once. O'Neal earned countless military honors as a member of the elite Army Rangers corps, a founding member of the legendary first Department of Defense antiterrorist team, a member of the Golden Knights Parachuting Team, and more, devoting his life to training the next generation of soldiers. His unbelievable true stories are both shocking and moving, a reminder of what it means to be a true American hero. In O'Neal's own words, he "wasn't born a warrior" — life made him one. *American Warrior* will serve as inspiration for American men and women in uniform today, as well as appeal to the countless veterans who served their country alongside O'Neal.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Mr. O'Neal, among other claims he has made in his book, did not in any manner intervene in the

proper burial of Nguyen "Bobby" Nguyen in Ontario, Oregon, September 1978. Per the Echanis Family the remains of their son, Mike, Chuck Sanders and Bobby Nguyen were properly buried and all preparations prior to the funerals were overseen and carried out by the Echanis/Sanders families, the U.S. Special Forces Command (as assigned to MSG Jakovenko, then team sergeant for the ODA Chuck Sanders was on prior to his leaving the Army) and Master Chief Bob Nissley, senior enlisted NCO for the Navy at the JFK Special Warfare Center and close friend of all three who were killed. His claim as having delayed Bobby's funeral for the reason given is despicable. His self proclaimed presence in Ontario is greatly over-stated to the point of his being a non entity during the entire week leading up to the funerals. His claim to have escorted the remains of all three from Managua, Nicaragua to Ontario, Oregon, is likewise grossly inaccurate per the Echanis family and Master Chief Nissley (Retired). All three caskets were abandoned by their US Embassy designated escorts, the author included, at the airport in Fort Lauderdale when US Customs/Immigration held the deceased remains of all three up for three days. His claim to have been responsible for writing the Echanis book series is absurd per Master Randy Wanner, Hwa Rang Do, who actually did work with Echanis directly in the books' writing and presentations. Per Wanner, Echanis was the sole driving energy behind the books.

I have mixed feelings after reading the book. It brought back many memories for me as I was assigned to same unit in Vietnam and could relate. I to came from a somewhat dysfunctional family and felt I had a home in the Army so I could relate there also. as did Gary in the book, I left the Army after returning from Vietnam and floundered around in civilian life in Fayetteville, NC. Not a good place for a young man in 1969. Because of many problems within the Army in the very early 70's I longed to go back to active duty. Once you have a taste of war and the adrenaline that exists if you are a true warrior you feel a strong pull to be back in that environment as Gary said in the book: I was looking for another war. Well that described me as well. Instead of going back Army I went USMC. First duty assignment Force Recon where I could be put back on jump status. Ended up retiring after 20 yrs. Went back to Fayetteville and Ft Bragg where I worked at range control and retired 2006. I could relate to Gary and a lot of his life. I guess it brought out my own PTSD. Having worked at special operations command (USASOC) for a couple yrs before going to range control I learned how special ops functions. They have their own set of rules they operate by and in most cases are not challenged. I found it amazing that Gary made it through his career without being court martialed. He had a lot of high profile people pulling strings for him like they always say "it's who you know" there was only one place for Gary that was spec ops where he could maneuver in

his own world and operate by their own rules. This was evident in his book where he was serving short stint in 82d ABN DIV. I'm sure they were happy to ship him back to Spec Ops. Right where he wanted to be.

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