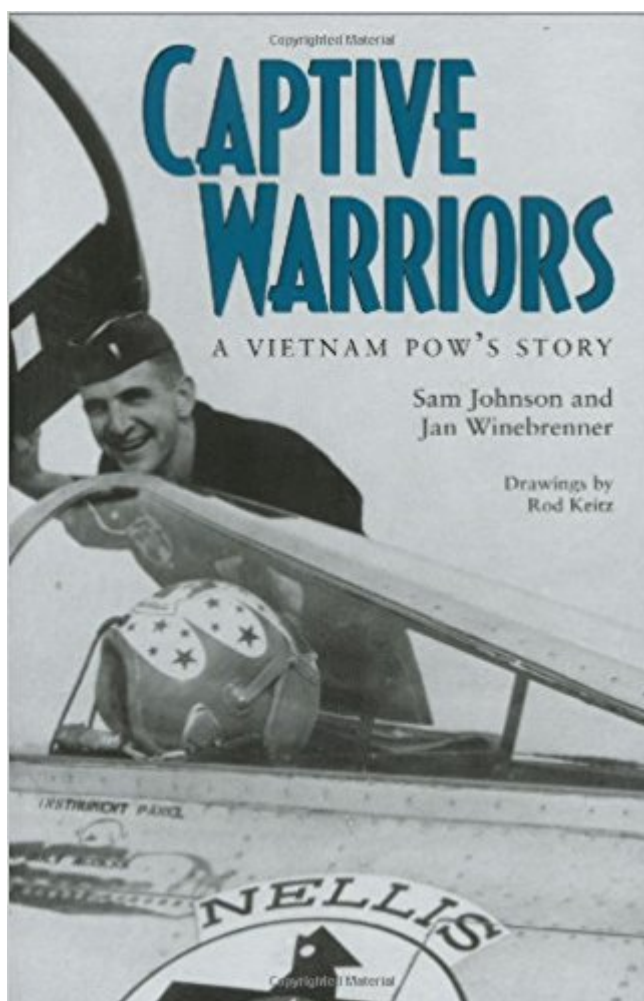


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Captive Warriors: A Vietnam POW's Story (Texas A & M University Military History Series 23)



Synopsis

"If hell is here on earth, it is located on an oddly shaped city block in downtown Hanoi, Vietnam," writes Sam Johnson, who lived in that hell for seven years. Col. Samuel R. Johnson, U.S. Air Force, was shot down in April, 1966, while flying his twenty-fifth mission over North Vietnam. Shortly after his capture and imprisonment in the infamous Hanoi Hilton, Colonel Johnson was labeled a diehard by his enemies. His creative and innovative resistance of prison authority earned him banishment to the high-security prison unit where, unknown to U.S. military intelligence, Ho Chi Minh kept the eleven prisoners believed to be a serious threat to his war efforts. For two years Johnson and the other ten endured leg irons, malnutrition, and appallingly primitive conditions while imprisoned in tiny cubicles built in the earthen-walled facility dug out of the center courtyard of North Vietnam's Ministry of Defense in downtown Hanoi. *Captive Warriors* is the story of Alcatraz, where courage and humor thrived amid the madness. It is the story of Colonel Johnson's seven-year battle for his life, limbs, and sanity. It is the story of the hundreds of captured warriors--American POWs--whose lives lay in the hands of angry and vengeful North Vietnamese captors. The book also chronicles America's trek into political confusion and chaos throughout the course of the Vietnam War. More than a story, *Captive Warriors* is a tribute to all the American prisoners of war who, without benefit of the conventional weapons of war, waged daily battles against an insidious enemy disdainful of the requirements of the Geneva Conventions and who, in the end, became the final pawn in the peace settlement that ended the longest war in American history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Among prisoner of war memoirs, which all remind us of the brutality of war and the staggering toll it takes on the individual, Vietnam POW accounts are especially powerful reminders of what the ordinary soldier is sometimes forced to endure. Johnson, presently a Congressman from Texas, was an Air Force pilot shot down over North Vietnam in 1966. He spent the next seven years of his life in brutally inhumane conditions that tested his strength and will to survive in ways he never believed possible. His personal struggle, assisted by the love and compassion of his fellow POWs, forms the heart and soul of the book. *Captive Warriors* is as fine a work as James and Sybil Stockdale's *In Love and War* (LJ 8/84) and *Chained Eagle* (LJ 11/1/89) by Everett Alvarez Jr. and Anthony S. Pitch. Recommended for Vietnam collections.- John R. Vallely, Siena Coll. Lib., Loudonville, N.Y. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"In Sam Johnson, patriotism, smarts, guts and humor are combined. The best actor to play his roll in a movie would be Jimmy Stewart at age 40. His book about Alcatraz will provide major insights on the Vietnam experience."--Sen. Jeremiah A. Denton, Rear Admiral USN (Ret.) (Sen. Jeremiah A. Denton, Rear Admiral USN (Ret.))

I learned more about the Vietnam war here than anyplace else. This book was of personal interest because I wore a POW bracelet with Col. Sam's name in the late 60's and early 70's and mailed the bracelet to him when he came home. I never knew he became a Congressman until recently. It's a grueling account of his captivity, but one everyone should read to understand what our guys endured for our country during a time they did not get the respect they deserved. A+ Sir Sam!

Fantastic although sad story of the POWs and their awful treatment. A testament to that generation of Patriots that refused to give in to oppressors demands. Col. Johnson, now Congressman Johnson quote inspiring. Nice how those 11 united to survive and accomplish covert ops. Congressman Johnson now heads powerful Ways and Means committee and ACTIVELY helps his constituents in a timely fashion. Very inspiring man. I am honored to have him as my Congressman!

Enjoyed the book, it is a different view of Vietnam than the combat stories we are accustomed to. I learned a few things about what was going on at the time, that I had been previously unaware of.

I have read many books written by and about POW's during the Vietnam War and found this one to be a very good read. My only complaint was when he didn't name names on some of the prisoners

who cooperated with the Vietnamese or who caused problems with other prisoners. (They are named in other books, so I know who they are, but if you are going to talk to them, go ahead and name them.) Over all it was a thought provoking book and give you some insight into the moral and physical make-up of one of the "hardliners" held prisoner in "Alcatraz".

Captive Warriors was an incredible, inspiring, revealing personal account of what our servicemen who became POWs of the North Vietnamese had to endure. It is told by Congressman Sam Johnson (Texas) (Col. USAF at the time) who spent almost seven years in the worst of their prison camps. If you want a glimpse into how love (of country and of family) and the strength of the human spirit (when there is a belief in God) can carry a person through times that you'd think no person could possibly survive, then read this book and be moved.

Outstanding tale. I've read several different books written by formwer Vietnam War POWs. Johnsons ranks with the best. Captivating and never boring.

Just finished "Captive Warriors" autobiography of COL (ret) Sam Johnson of his years as a POW in Vietnam. Inspiring.

I really enjoyed this book. Very well written!! It's great!!

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