



Willy

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THE FIGHTING FISH

CANDI G.



Willy

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SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would especially like to thank "Will He Make It" the Siamese fighting fish and his owner, Specialist (SPC) **Matthew Tattersall** who are US Army **82nd AIRBORNE** Paratroopers that are "Second to None" and inspired me to write this book.

AIRBORNE!!



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DEDICATIONS

This book is dedicated to the following: Current and Former 82nd AIRBORNE Paratroopers including my father, Joseph P. His military friends: Rick "Bloop, Bloop" Lopez, Ben Keels, "Skeeter" and all the Vietnam War Veterans that served with them. My late grandfather, Durrell Rusher, World War II, US Army veteran who served in the following areas: Fort Bragg, North Carolina, near Twenty Nine Palms, California and Tinian Island's Airfield (South Pacific) in support of the Enola Gay's Mission which helped end World War II.

My mom Cathy Rusher , who served as an US Army Service Club Girl in the 1960s and as an Army Civilian during the 1980s at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Tiger was my forever childhood friend. He was a German Shepherd Military Working dog. Tiger really liked to chase rabbits. (That is another story!!) Tiger was airlifted out of Vietnam to Taiwan during the End of the Vietnam War. Tiger was part of my family, and I will always remember him. As well as the 113th Finance Battalion, North Carolina Army National Guard, the unit I served in. The Saint Augustine University's Army ROTC Falcon Battalion in Raleigh, North Carolina. I was an Army ROTC Cadet who trained often at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. I will never forget Special Forces repelling into our Training Area for a Helicopter Air Assault training demonstration. So Awesome and Totally Cool!!

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Grandfather- Durrell,
ARMY SOLDIER



Father has two patches-
Joseph P.,
AIRBORNE PARATROOPER



Mother standing by herself-
Catherine,
US ARMY Service Club Girl



Mother standing with Soldier



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CHAPTER

Let's Begin with Da' Nang



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The Beginnings of Willy, the Fighting Fish

Willy, the Fighting Fish, comes from a long line of warriors. His family originated from the beautiful coast of Da’Nang, Vietnam. Willy’s homeland has gorgeous mountains, warm waters of the South China Sea, and soft, sandy beaches. Da’Nang is the home of mystical, magical, and spiritual Marble Mountain. The Marble Mountain, as the legend goes, contains hidden secrets dating to the Ly Dynasty. Red Flaming Dragons roamed the coastline during the Ly Dynasty soaring above the rocky cliffs, level beaches, and dense jungle valleys below. These Dragons had mystical powers and were descendants from the Lord of Dragons, “Lac Long Quan.” (Dragon Lord of the Lac)

The Dragons loved flying by the nape of the shoreline, covering over the waves, scorching the earth below with their Flaming, Fire Breathes. The Fire Breathing Dragons are the guardians of Marble Mountain and the ancient Yellow Temple. The Yellow Temple is the home of the Dragon Fairies. These Fairies have mystical powers that are only visible and given to the chosen few. The Yellow Temple sets perched along on the foot of the Marble Mountain’s coastline sparkling in the horizon. The temple within its walls contains unknown secrets waiting to be discovered. Marble Mountain and the beautiful Yellow Temple, “Home of the Fairies,” as the ancient legend goes, is where “Willy, the Fighting Fish,” derives his extraordinary abilities.

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Marble Mountain and the Flying Dragons.

Willy, the Fighting Fish, comes from the Betta Fish lineage, known for its fighting capabilities. Willy's natural habit extends to Southeast Asia. Willy, the Fighting Fish, scientific name is: *Betta Splendens*.

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Willy's Family Comes to America

Willy's family supported the US Army at Da'Nang, during the Vietnam War. Willy's family was rescued while at sea by the US Navy. Willy's family arrived in America as Refugees during the 1970s Vietnamese Boat Lift. Willy's family settled on the West Coast of America in sunny California. They lived on the West Coast for years, but they often wonder about the Soldiers they served alongside in Vietnam.

Willy's family spoke fondly about serving with the US Military in Vietnam. His family members served as advisers to the United States Army. Willy's family never could forget the ties to the United States Army's 82nd **AIRBORNE**. Therefore, they decided to move to the Southeastern United States.



Refugees fleeing years ago with Willy's Fighting Fish Ancestors.

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Map of the California's West Coast