

"GOD LOVES THE GRUNT"

by George L. Skypeck



"Now and forever, the memories forged in the heat of combat, refined by the pain of wounds, and sustained by the alienation of our society cannot be forgotten"

- George L. Skypeck on "God Loves the Grunt"

About the Work

"God Loves the Grunt" was created to portray the image of the men and women that America sent to Vietnam. One of the unique aspects of this striking portrait is that over 5,000 combat veterans have participated in the work, either by signing it or by touching the face that portrays the feelings, the pain, the weariness, the sadness, the strain, the fear and the death that no veteran will ever forget.

Today these veterans are lawyers, doctors, educators, business executives, laborers, physician assistants, nurses, senators and congressmen. But yesterday they were privates, generals, SEALs, rangers, pilots, corpsmen, medics, drivers, divers "river rats," advisors, special forces, POWs, nurses and doctors.

About the Artist

George L. Skypeck, or "Sky", was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts, of Polish-Lithuanian heritage. As a young man he left the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and joined the Army as a private.

He volunteered and fought in the Vietnam War. In 1974 he was released as a captain after serving numerous isolated combat tours as an unconventional special warfare and senior intelligence advisors to Vietnamese units in the Delta. Wounded, decorated and disabled, he returned to college to obtain his bachelors degree in politics from the University of Massachusetts. He attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for graduate studies in Arms Control and Defense Planning and obtained a Masters of Public Administration from Amherst.

In 1980 he entered the prestigious Corcoran Museum and School of Art in Washington, DC to pursue his art career. Sky is proud of his membership in the Salamagundi Club and Society of Illustrators.

About Physician Assistants

The physician assistant profession was created as an outgrowth of the Vietnam War, and the large number of medical corpsmen returning from that conflict with little or no avenue to pursue a civilian medical career. The profession that was created for these veterans helped to solve a shortage of primary care physicians in the United States. Today PAs serve as commissioned officers in all branches of the Armed Services and provide vital life-saving medical support. Recently over 260 PAs were mobilized to the Persian Gulf as part of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Currently there are three physician assistants assigned to the White House Medical Unit where they assist Dr. Lee in caring for the President, Vice President, cabinet members, secret service and staff assigned to the White House compound.

This limited edition, numbered, full-color print, signed by the artist, is made available to you by the Veterans Caucus of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.