The son of a World War II veteran, James Wright joined the marines at age seventeen and served for three years, primarily with the First Marine Brigade in Hawaii and Japan. He earned a PhD at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, became a history professor at Dartmouth College in 1969, and served as president of Dartmouth from 1998 to 2009. Since 2005 he has visited military hospitals over two dozen times and has worked to establish educational counseling programs for wounded veterans, efforts featured in the New York Times, Boston Globe, Christian Science Monitor, National Public Radio, ABC World News, and VFW Magazine, and recognized by educational, veteran, and service organizations. He and his wife, Susan, live in New Hampshire.

“Former Marine and Dartmouth President Jim Wright has written a concise military history of the United States with a focus on the veterans of our wars. It is empathetic, informed by his personal knowledge of the sacrifices and joys of military service, and deeply compelling. I know of no more ambitious work on how our nation cares for those who have borne the burden of her battles, nor one that achieves its goals so well. In this time of too many wars, it should be read by every American.”

—DR. JOHN NAGL, MINERVA PROFESSOR AT THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY AND RETIRED ARMY OFFICER

“This important book talks sense to the American people about our wars and their consequences. Engaging, wise, and filled with keen insights for all Americans, their military, and political leaders in particular.”


“Finally—a comprehensive book chronicling the journey of the American veteran… Wright’s book is required reading for anyone who wants to understand the wars and warriors of our past—and perhaps the wars and warriors of our future.”

—PAUL RIECKHOFF, FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA

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