



For immediate release

October 19, 2017

For further information:

Nanette Whitman-Holmes

406-449-4900

NWH@Touchmark.com

Vietnam Vet shares experiences in new book and Veterans Day presentation

HELENA, Mont. – Education. Leadership. Family. Compassion. These are priorities that have shaped Jim Tutwiler’s life. The retired Colonel and resident of Touchmark on Saddle Drive served 30 years in the Army and recently published his first book, “Vietnam: 2 Doors-No Opening.” A labor of love, the book is a culmination of his career and experiences. “I can’t take center stage,” he emphasizes. “This isn’t about me. It is about every person who has served and those who are serving. Not one veteran is more important than another.”

“Vietnam: 2 Doors-No Opening” describes Tutwiler’s time in Vietnam. “There are hundreds of books on Vietnam, but I had a much different experience than others who were sent over. I spent my first half-year living in a rural, isolated area working with different ethnic groups fighting the Viet Cong. We lived in rat-infested thatch huts and among the emaciated and downtrodden Vietnamese.”

During the second half of his 1966-67 tour, Tutwiler was reassigned as the briefing officer in General Westmoreland’s headquarters. “The contrast of the two assignments left me with a much different perspective of the situation in Vietnam.” Tutwiler goes on to explain that little is recorded of the brutality against the South Vietnamese, and “that is the story I felt I had to tell.”

Tutwiler relied not only on his memory as he wrote his book, but his wife saved all 165 letters he wrote to her during his tour. “I was able to go through and reread each letter and remember what I was thinking, feeling at the time, and reflect on those experiences. It was a long war and so complex.”

A career of service

Tutwiler’s military career began when he was a student at the University of Montana (UM). “I enjoyed the ROTC curriculum and activities and through that was encouraged to make a career out of the military.” After receiving his degree in Journalism from UM, he went on to earn a graduate degree in Communications from American University in Washington, D.C. An advocate of education and a lifelong learner, Tutwiler took advantage of every learning opportunity offered through the Army. “Leadership is crucial. In order to rise in the ranks, you need advanced degrees and training.” Over the

-more-

TOUCHMARK ON SADDLE DRIVE
Full-service Retirement Community
915 Saddle Drive • Helena, MT 59601
406-449-4900 • Touchmark.com

years he attended seminars by General Maxwell Taylor and Henry Kissinger and completed Ranger and Airborne training.

After retiring in 1985, Tutwiler was hired by the State Department to be a part of the Multinational Force & Observers unit along the Egyptian-Israeli border. This operation was part of the successful Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty. After returning to Helena later that decade, he went to work for the Montana Chamber of Commerce, where he was a lobbyist and the coordinator of the annual Governor's Cup Golf Tournament until 2008.

Today, Tutwiler still is a golf enthusiast. In addition to writing, he has a passion for the outdoors and hiking.

Veterans Day presentation

Tutwiler will be the featured speaker at the Veterans Day program at Touchmark on November 10 at 6:30 p.m. He will have a few copies of his book on hand to sign and give away. While there is no charge to attend the presentation, seating is limited. To RSVP, call 406-449-4900. Touchmark is located at 915 Saddle Drive.

About Touchmark

A full-service retirement community, Touchmark on Saddle Drive offers people a wide range of homes and lifestyle options, including memory care services. More information is available at Touchmark.com.

-end-