

\*\*\*Note: This narrative was added June 4, 2008 by Charles Cusumano. It was a handwritten addition, so is not included in the audio.\*\*\*

This will be the last chapter I would like to add. I didn't forget about it, I just don't want to remember it. All my life I was the shortest kid in school, grammar and high school, always in the front row for all the pictures. Little did I know in 1968 this would save my life. In 1968 I was guarding the main road going in the town of Quinhon. I was in a guard tower 65 feet up. Every other guard tower was manned by a Vietnam soldier, and a U.S. army soldier. We were ordered to stop all traffic going into the town. My duty was to stop all American soldiers, and the Vietnamese soldiers were to stop their own people. Why the town was cut off at night, the army never told us. Both sides knew the town was off limits. When it got real dark, two Vietnamese civilians came down the road on a motor scooter. They were told three times to stop and turn back, but every time they were told, they just went faster. Finally, the Vietnamese soldier in the next guard tower opened up with his machine gun and killed them both. It was a couple bursts of fire and the scooter hitting the ground, and that was that. It was very hot that night, so I wasn't wearing my helmet. Good thing, because it probably saved my life, that and being so short. A shot rang out and before I knew anything, a bullet went right through my hair. A sniper tried to take me out. My head was on fire, but there was no blood. If I was wearing my helmet, the bullet would have exploded inside the helmet. I called for help on my radio, but the batteries were dead. I was stuck there until 6:30 the next morning. When I got back to the base camp, I told the captain what happened. He asked me if I was alright. I told him yes, but I need to change my trousers, ha ha. That was 40 years ago. I would have been dead longer than I would have been alive. People ask me why every day I am in a good mood, and why nothing bothers me. They should only know, I cheated death now for 40 years. After this happened, I live every day like it is my last, but that is just me. Life is too short to waste time not being happy! Look at my situation, in one pull of a trigger, your life is over!