

For immediate PRESS RELEASE

Decorated Vietnam War Veteran Remembers

As one of the first Army ground combat troops deployed to Vietnam local veteran honors those in his squad killed in Action. Toporek dropped out of St Andrews High school in Charleston SC and Joined the Army. Though he wanted to be in special forces he ended up as an infantry paratrooper with the weapons squad, 3rd platoon, Company B, 2nd battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade.

As Sherman once said, if war is hell, then the Vietnam War was hell on steroids.

Robert Toporek a local Vietnam Veteran remembers his brothers in arms. Robert Served with the 173rd. Airborne Brigade from May of 1965 to May of 1967. In his first tour approximately 50 men from his company were Killed in Action.

In his 2nd Tour of Duty Robert was the noncommissioned officer in charge of his battalions' Civil affairs program. He was all of 19 years old and essentially a high school dropout. Because of his extraordinary leadership skills, he was promoted to this position

His team of wounded soldiers built a couple of schools, a Boy Scout lodge, a playground, a health center. These were manned once a week by volunteer Army doctors and once a week he took a truck load of refugees to volunteer army doctors, and fed and orphanage his work is featured in a chapter in the book "The Principal's Daughter" by Russel Katz.

For over 25 years, Robert never talked about Vietnam until one day he called the Father of Milton Olive. Milton Olive was the first African American to be awarded the Medal of honor in The Vietnam War. Milton and Robert were in the same squad and initially did not mesh well. After the fight Milton beat the white out of Robert and Robert beat the black out of Milton and the only thing left were brothers that lives depended on one another. Since talking to Milton's father, Robert is dedicated to making that a national story.

Since Vietnam Robert has had nothing short of a miraculous journey. He ran for public office four times in South Carolina, once against Representative Jim Clyburn for Charleston South Carolina. He worked in poverty programs in Charleston teaching illiterate adults how to read, write, fill out a job application, and go on job interviews.

He was awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship by the Ford Foundation to study methods and techniques of person growth in public education. He trained for a year at Esalen Institute in Encounter and Gestalt groups and spent a year in San Francisco studying meditation with the Arica program.

In 1975 he began studying directly with Dr Ida P Rolf the founder of the Rolf method of structural integration. In 1978 she chose him to implement and manage a project to document, demonstrate, and promote the benefits of Rolfing for babies and children which he has done since.



Robert has now Rolfed over 5,000 men, women, children, and babies.

He brought this powerful ideology and technique to what was formerly called The Band Lands of North Philadelphia (9th and Indiana). He worked in the neighborhood for over three years. In his last summer there he distributed over 50 refurbished computers to every family in the neighborhood.

Robert worked with the Aspira of PA program creating a 21st century early childhood development program in their Pequenos Pasos DE preschool.

Since then with minimal funding or staff he has managed a non-Profit program, called TeamChildren, to distribute over 20,000 low cost high quality refurbished computers to families, schools, organizations, and veterans throughout the region and around the world.

His book www.handsonparenting.org is beginning to make a worldwide difference.

He is now working on a book The Path to Everywhere and Anything: Beyond Survivors guilt a great Vietnam War Story.

At 73, his legacy plan is to organize the amazing accomplishments and pass on to the next generation, his grit, humor, commitment, and ability to move the meter on the growth and development of babies and children.

For more information:

www.rolfingtoporek.com
www.TeamChildren.org
www.handsonparenting.org

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Before Rolfing session 1



After 10 Rolfing sessions