

March 1, 2007

Dear Editor:

I almost choked when I saw that Phil Jennings had titled the author Q&A for his book *NAM-A-RAMA*, “A warm cup of napalm with Phil Jennings.” As you know, an author with an irreverent sense of humor about his first novel – of all things – is rare indeed. But then again, Phil is unique.

What Joseph Heller did for WWII and *M.A.S.H* did for Korea, Phil has done for Vietnam with his satire *NAM-A-RAMA* – to exceptional critical acclaim. And as public opinion shows, the comparison between Vietnam and Iraq is ever more relevant. About the beauty of his gallows humor, Phil Jennings says, “The lessons of Vietnam are too important to be left to the academics and historians.”

Phil flew over 300 helicopter missions for the Marine Corps in Vietnam. After the war, he spent two years with Air America in Laos, where he was shot down four times. On his first Air America mission, he got to see Dien Bien Phu, a place he had dreamed about as a kid. In fact, he was shot down about half an hour after he saw it. Phil later went to Mexico after his best friend was killed flying and attended graduate school at the University of Mexico on a “scholarship” from the CIA.

Beneath the Marine is a member of Mensa. An unlikely “egghead” (his word), Phil started companies with Dow Jones and Microsoft. Three of his start-ups grew to over a billion dollars in market value. (He generously offered to teach me the secret of doing all this and staying *not* rich.)

I recently received an email from Phil. He wrote: “I don’t know if I told you, but in my 65<sup>th</sup> year I went to my local tattoo parlor and had USMC tattooed on my left arm. Just a feeling of solidarity with the grunts and my son, who is a Marine. If you knew how conservative I am, you would probably think I went mad. But I love the darn tattoo. In Las Vegas for my son’s 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in a couple of weeks, I’m having Semper Fi added to complete the tattoo.”

Phil’s second novel, *GOODBYE MEXICO*, is the sequel to *NAM-A-RAMA*. It is a ribald look at U.S. diplomacy abroad. It will be published by Forge Hardcover on April 17, 2007. About the book, Danny Rubin, the writer of *Groundhog Day* says, “Let’s face it: commentary on US meddling in foreign affairs is ripe for commentary.”

Thanks for taking a look at *NAM-A-RAMA* for paperback review – and for keeping an eye out for *GOODBYE MEXICO*. If you have any questions, please give me a call. Otherwise, I’ll be in touch soon to follow-up about feature coverage.

Sincerely,

Laura Reynolds  
Reynolds Public Relations, Inc.  
434 295-1128 or [laura@reynoldspublicrelations.com](mailto:laura@reynoldspublicrelations.com)