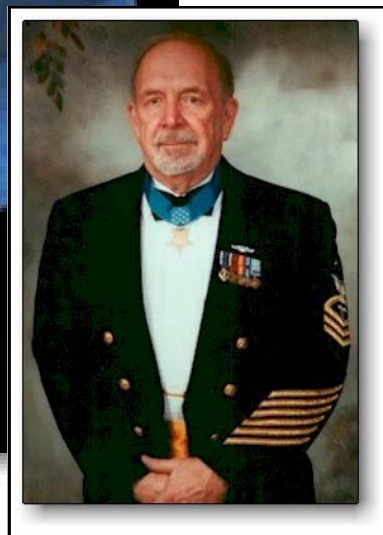


Acts of Valor
The Pilot Episode
Story



"Two Hill's: One Nightmare"

**A COMMERATIVE SERIES
HONORING AMERICA'S SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN**



William "Doc" Charette

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Alan Ames & Associates

ENTERTAINMENT CONSULTANTS

Acts of Valor *Treatment*

By
Alan Ames

Acts of Valor is a multi-format series of true-life stories of American servicemen and women who have performed courageous and exemplary acts of valor while on duty in the service of their country. The purpose of *Acts of Valor* is to educate, inspire and promote a sense of pride in the heroic actions of military personnel to the youth of today, and the American public at large.

Acts of Valor is the intellectual property of Alan Ames and Associates in conjunction with the Texas Veterans Museum, and will be derived from stories and interviews with courageous servicemen and women and will be part of the museum's educational outreach program. These stories will be compiled and released in various formats and media applications.

We believe that *Acts of Valor* will impact the American culture in much the same way as President John F. Kennedy's "Profiles in Courage," and will serve to help unite all Americans in honor and respect of the freedom we have established.

We envision the following formats in media:

1. Episodic Television Series: For All Ages
2. A compiled Book/Novel: For All Ages
3. Theatrical Movies/Shorts: For All Ages
4. Cartoons/Comic Books: Ages 5-15

By embracing the various media, *Acts of Valor* will instill a revitalized sense of pride across all age groups of Americans as an ongoing tribute to those who served their country insuring American freedom. Additionally, it rewards those courageous Americans who gave their all for the preservation of their country.

Concept/Design/Production/Direction/Distribution P.O. Box 631302, Houston, TX 77263 #713-627-0145

Email aames@ev1.net Cell # 832-265-0275

Two Hills, One Nightmare

by Lane Phalen

In separate actions, two GIs emerge as uncommon heroes in a common hell

Saving Lives Under Fire

The irony was not lost on Navy Corpsman William R. Charette. Having read about the near-cataclysmic events at the Chosin Reservoir in 1950, he found himself, surprisingly, assigned three years later to the same company that had fought there. Most of the men had rotated out of Korea by January 1953, when Charette joined F Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines. Now near Panmunjon, the company was located close to the site of the stalled peace talks.

Peace, though, wasn't reigning anywhere near the three hills dubbed *Reno*, *Carson* and *Vegas*. One clear and freezing morning, Charette heard what he thought was thunder but, in reality, the roar was actually thousands of Chinese soldiers—attacking the 5th Marines that held the hills. In time, the hills fell, and, on March 27, Charette's company was called to take part in a three-battalion assault on Vegas to recapture it.

The intensity of the fighting was unmistakable as Charette saw men entangled in the barbed wire where they had died. Immediately, he began treating the wounded as his company moved ahead. Life soon became chaos for the young man as the cries for "corpsman" came from everywhere. Disregarding his own safety amid a hail of small-arms and mortar fire, Charette answered them as best he could throughout the day and into the night, literally losing all sense of time. He later recalled, "The Chinese above us were rolling grenades downhill onto us. There were so many going off there was no way to count them. It was just a constant roar."

Answering one of the calls for help, Charette came upon a marine in the point squad with severe wounds. A grenade landed near the corpsman and his patient. "I couldn't see it in the dark. I knew it was there, and it was going to go off," he said, describing how he used his medical bag to try to push the grenade away.

Knowing his patient couldn't survive more wounds, the Ludington, Mich., native shielded the man with his own body. The blast, which blew Charette's helmet off and knocked him unconscious with wounds to the face, had also left him temporarily blind and deaf. When his sight returned, he saw he was the least wounded of the five men around him. The man Charette had shielded was also alive—thanks to the medical bag taking the brunt of the blow.



Charette, like the Marine corpsman pictured here, was "Doc" to the men he treated under fire in the fierce March 1953 battle.

Earlier Charette had given his coat to a wounded man, and now his medical supplies were nearly gone. Even so, he improvised, ripping his own clothes apart to make bandages and tourniquets, and pulled flak jackets from dead marines to cover their wounded comrades who were drawn to him like a magnet. Near dawn on March 28, the lead company was ordered to pull back.

Under cover of darkness, Charette and other marines began evacuating the wounded from Vegas. When they came to a trench that had been torn up by an explosion, he didn't hesitate to stand and carry a severely wounded marine to safety—an action he repeated over and over until the men were safe. "I could hear the bullets zipping by my head, but I had no choice," Charette said, "I couldn't leave the guy there." Casualties were heavy for both sides in the battle for Vegas, with the Chinese sustaining more than thirteen hundred and the Marines; 118 dead, 801 wounded and 98 missing in action.

Nine months after the armistice, Charette was still in Korea, working in a postwar MASH unit when the chief surgeon gave him the news that he was to receive the Medal of Honor. Like many who have received the award, Charette protested that he did not deserve it. Home he went nonetheless. After spending Christmas with his family in Michigan, he traveled to the White House for the presentation on Jan. 12, 1954.

After receiving the Medal of Honor, Charette finished out his days of service training new corpsmen at Great Lakes, where he met his wife, Louise, who was in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES). After 90 days as a married civilian with a pregnant wife, Charette opted to make a career out of the Navy. He signed up for submarine school where, he said, "I found a home."

In 1958, he was honored to select the remains of what would become the Unknown Soldier of World War II. "This was a tremendous honor for me," Charette said. "My grandchildren and their grandchildren will be able to visit the Tomb of the Unknowns and realize I had a small role in this national monument."



William "Doc" Charette

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After serving during Vietnam and the Cold War, Charette retired in 1977. When a local newspaper honored veterans from WWI, WWII and Vietnam, Charette was shocked that Korean veterans weren't included. "I don't understand that, because 54,000 Americans lost their lives in Korea."

Heroics in the Trench Line

Three outposts—*Tom*, *Dick* and *Harry*—protected the 3rd Infantry Division's main position. On *Harry*, two platoons from the division prepared to withdraw. "Not a day went by while we were on *Harry* that we didn't lose a couple of guys to enemy artillery," recalled Ola Mize, who was serving as assistant platoon leader at the time with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry.

On the evening of June 10, 1953, Mize and four men had just returned to their positions after reconnoitering routes for the withdrawal the next day. A short time later, Chinese artillery fire began falling like hail on the finger-shaped hill. Huddled in their bunkers, the GIs dared not move during the thunderous barrage.

Mize—who requested a transfer to Korea after a two-year hitch with the 82nd Airborne—had been with the company only a few months. During that time, he had witnessed dozens of Chinese trucks unloading men and equipment less than 3,000 yards away. But his requests for artillery fire went unheeded, because no one believed him.

Learning of a wounded GI 150 yards downslope, Mize and a volunteer medic made their way to the man, returning him to safety. Enemy infantry had joined the attack. Mize gunned down several Chinese soldiers who were jumping into the American trenches as he made his way to the second platoon.

Along the way, he found a bunker almost completely collapsed from enemy shelling, where a few survivors were half-buried in dirt, wood and rocks. Mize pulled several men clear, then discovered that his weapon was the only one working. The others were clogged with dirt.

He posted himself in the shadows of the bunker door as more of the enemy began pouring into the trench. "I thought I'd bought the farm," Mize recalled. "I just knew I was going to die. I knew it. I accepted it. All I wanted to do was take as many of them with me as I could."

Mize threw a grenade down the trench, but the enemy persisted in their charge. Mize put his carbine on full automatic and began spraying the advancing Chinese. Pvt. Allan England and Cpl. James Kelly loaded magazines and passed them to Mize.

At one point, a group of enemy soldiers charged, and Mize opened fire. From the hand of one of them rolled a grenade. The blast blew Mize back into the bunker. Stunned, he groped for his carbine in the darkness, found it and returned to his post.

The barrage continued, and several of the rounds exploded near Mize, completely lifting him out of the trench. His helmet was gone, and his flak jacket was smoldering. Each time a blast hit, Mize suffered repeated wounds and concussions, but somehow he made it back to his position.

This lasted for more than two hours, when England told him they were running low on ammo. Mize waved the two GIs away from their post. As they left, the young private couldn't help but to notice the pile of enemy bodies stacked up in the trench. Later, 47 dead Chinese were counted in that spot.

When the little group of men led by Mize came upon the platoon's main bunker, they found only dead men, friendly and enemy. They did uncover some working weapons and ammunition, though, and even a radio. The group built a makeshift barrier, and Mize called for artillery fire.

"Lay it on me," he shouted. "Right on top of us!" When the man refused because there were GIs there, Mize yelled, "Not many. There's a lot more of them than there is of us. Fire away!"

Within minutes, friendly fire broke over the hill. Mize deeply regretted that some Americans were killed, but it couldn't be helped. His radio was damaged, and a sergeant trying to reach him told his lieutenant, "Everyone on *Harry* is dead. Only Chinese left up there now." But it wasn't true. Indestructible Ola Mize and about 15 others fought on. Mize moved among the men, encouraging them and urging them to keep up the fight.

By two the next morning, the enemy attack had slackened, and Mize ordered his men to withdraw. As they carefully moved down the hill, they heard voices—Chinese voices. The GIs had stumbled on a group of some 30 unsuspecting enemy. "It was hell," Mize said. "I'm trying to shoot all these Chinese, and I keep stepping on this guy laying between my feet. I was afraid I'd fall down and they'd get us. Finally, I yanked him to his feet and we got out of there."

The two returned to the platoon bunker, where they continued to fight off periodic enemy assaults. At dawn, the Chinese began pulling back from *Harry*, prompting Mize to once more move his men out. At 8 a.m., a friendly relief company arrived and swept over the hill. The scene was one of mass destruction. Not a bunker remained intact and most of the trench line had collapsed. Dead soldiers littered the landscape. Of the 40 Americans on *Harry* at the start of the battle, twelve survived.

Mize refused to leave Korea and Company K until, after a year, he was ordered back to the United States to receive the Medal of Honor. The ceremony took place in Denver at the summer White House on Sept. 7, 1954.

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FEB. 7, 2005

DEAR MR. CHARETTE,

THANK YOU FOR THE INVITATION
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTS OF VALOR
PROGRAM AND HOUSTON, TEXAS VETERANS
MUSEUM.

I GIVE MY PERMISSION FOR YOU
TO USE MY STORY IN THIS PROJECT.
HOWEVER, I WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE
FOR INTERVIEWS UNTIL THE MONTH OF
APRIL, 2005.

SEMPER FI,

Bill "Doc" Charotte

Alan Ames & Associates

ENTERTAINMENT CONSULTANTS

**HC3c William R. Charette
C/O William Charette
P.O. Box 1869
Carmichael, CA 95609-1869**

02-23-04

Dear "Doc":

On behalf of myself and our project, "Acts of Valor", I would like to thank you personally for your support and participation in our pilot episode. Both Will and I look forward to meeting with you in April or May 2005 to interview you for the episode.

In the interim time we will become more familiar with the specifics of your story, "Two Hills One Nightmare," and prepare a series of questions to assist you in the recounting of the event. We would also like to follow you around for a "day in the life" feel for who you are as a person today.

We would bring a single camera and lighting kit and will keep the crew to just Will and myself, so as not to inconvenience you unnecessarily.

Any photographs, letters, or memorabilia you may have will be of great value to us. Additionally, we will be locating news and military footage of the Korean War to be used underneath your narration. Any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

We thank you again for your valiant service to America, democracy and freedom.

With the utmost respect,

**Alan Ames
Producer**

Concept/Design/Production/Direction/Distribution P.O. Box 631302, Houston, TX 77263 #713-627-0145

Email aames@ev1.net Cell # 832-265-0275

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515**

Tom DeLay
22nd District, Texas

February 24, 2005

Mr. Malcolm W. Browne
Chairman
The Veterans Museum in Texas
2900 Wilcrest, Suite 245
Houston, Texas 77042

Dear Mr. Browne,

I am pleased to join countless Americans in recognizing the brave men and women of our armed forces who have fought for the safety of America and the survival of liberty and democracy.

There is no greater way to honor the sacrifices of our veterans than to make sure their bravery is remembered and their stories recorded. The Veteran's Museum in Texas will celebrate the virtues embodied in our veterans, and I am proud to have it located right here in the 22nd District of Texas.

It is an honor to serve Texas veterans in the United States House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Tom DeLay
Member of Congress

Malcolm Wayne Browne
mbrowne@ix.netcom.com



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

March 15, 2005

The Honorable Joe L. Barton
U.S. Representative, District 6
U.S. House of Representatives
2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Barton:

As you consider requests for FY 2006 appropriations, I am writing to ask for your support of the Veteran's Museum in Texas project.

With more than 1.7 million veterans, 190,000 active duty and reserve force personnel and 18 major military installations, the military is an important component of our great state's heritage. Our nation enjoys freedom secured through military sacrifice, and I can think of no more fitting way to honor the sacrifice and dedication of our service men and women than to construct a museum in Texas to honor military veterans. Through exhibits, educational programs, and community outreach, the museum will honor veterans and at the same time reinforce to future generations both the meaning of and the cost of freedom.

I hope that you will join me in supporting this project to recognize each branch of the military and to honor men and women from the Revolutionary War to the present. The project has received support from community leaders and local businesses in Houston. ExxonMobil, for example, recently donated a 35-acre tract of land, valued at approximately \$7.8 million, to be used for the museum's site.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to working with you on this important project for veterans, as well as on other initiatives to provide the support and services that our military personnel and families deserve.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgp

ALAN AMES & ASSOCIATES

ENTERTAINMENT CONSULTANTS

Acts of Valor Sponsorship Opportunities

380 Films are planned for production; approximately 38 opportunities are available for sponsor support of \$1,500,000.

Houston was chosen as the site for the museum because the more than 200,000 veterans who live in Harris County represent the largest concentration of veterans in the state of Texas.

Each of our patriotic sponsors will make the production of ten IMAX films a reality, documenting forever the stories of our surviving American Heroes. These films will be shown in perpetuity at the IMAX theatre located in the Veterans Museum in Texas.

Included is information on the Acts of Valor pilot episode, this important pilot once complete will be entered into up to twenty film festivals worldwide. The production team is confident that it will be very well received. The producers intend to secure national television distribution for this series on a major cable network, such as The History Channel, A&E, PBS, HBO, and/or others.

The pilot episode will be used by the museum for promotional and fundraising purposes prior to, during and after its completion, which is intended to be in 2008.

Because the IMAX theatre will provide a key educational destination for all ages in the important sacrifices our veterans have made, it is with great pride that we offer this opportunity.

Each Sponsor will receive the following:

- Company Name and Corporate Logo will be associated with each film
- Each Sponsor will receive a Bronze Statue of a Fallen Soldier to proudly display
- Nationwide press coverage
- Featured in the Museum as a Sponsor
- Major Network Television Network Coverage
- Feature Story for Principles of Sponsor company in People Magazine
- First sponsors will attend groundbreaking ceremony July 4, 2005 standing alongside Governor Rick Perry, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, and Congressman Tom DeLay. Full media coverage.
- Continued Positive Media Coverage

For more information contact:

Bill Pogo (713) 503-0155
N. J. Petterson (713) 208-5203

For general information in regards to the Veterans Museum in Texas please visit:

www.theveteransmuseumintexas.org