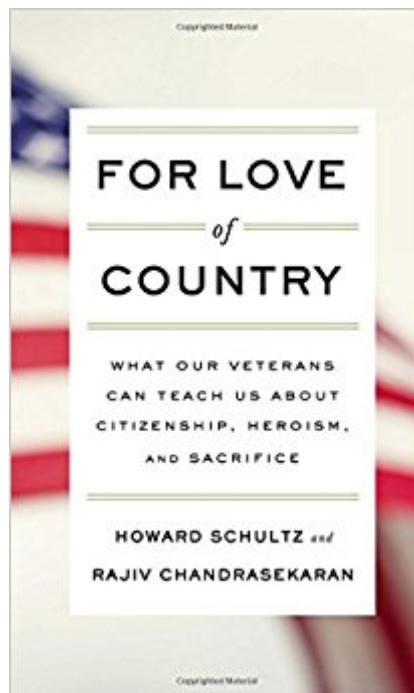




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# For Love Of Country: What Our Veterans Can Teach Us About Citizenship, Heroism, And Sacrifice



## Synopsis

A celebration of the extraordinary courage, dedication, and sacrifice of this generation of American veterans on the battlefield and their equally valuable contributions on the home front. Because so few of us now serve in the military, our men and women in uniform have become strangers to us. We stand up at athletic events to honor them, but we hardly know their true measure. Here, Starbucks CEO and longtime veterans advocate Howard Schultz and National Book Award finalist Rajiv Chandrasekaran of *The Washington Post* offer an enlightening, inspiring corrective. The authors honor acts of uncommon valor in Iraq and Afghanistan, including an Army sergeant who repeatedly runs through a storm of gunfire to save the lives of his wounded comrades; two Marines who sacrifice their lives to halt an oncoming truck bomb and protect thirty-three of their brothers in arms; a sixty-year-old doctor who joins the Navy to honor his fallen son. We also see how veterans make vital contributions once they return home, drawing on their leadership skills and commitment to service: former soldiers who aid residents in rebuilding after natural disasters; a former infantry officer who trades in a Pentagon job to teach in an inner-city neighborhood; a retired general leading efforts to improve treatments for brain-injured troops; the spouse of a severely injured soldier assisting families in similar positions. These powerful, unforgettable stories demonstrate just how indebted we are to those who protect us and what they have to offer our nation when their military service is done.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Knopf; First Edition edition (November 4, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1101874457

ISBN-13: 978-1101874455

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.9 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 115 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #208,361 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #198 in [Books > History > Military > Afghan War](#) #207 in [Books > History > Military > Iraq War](#) #215 in [Books > History > Military > United States > Veterans](#)

## Customer Reviews

“These stories leave the reader with a profound sense of [our troops] selfless

sacrifice and, sadly, a profound sense of the gulf that separates the ethos of the military from the contemporary currents of American life....Schultz and Chandrasekaran never suggest that war is good. But the stories they tell are a welcome reminder of what soldiers have always known: that out of difficulty and trauma come a sense of spiritual self-worth and a dedication to the service of others.

•Maj. Gen. Robert H. Scales, *The Wall Street Journal*

“Full, vibrant profiles of men and women forever marked by war, who continue to endure and transform both themselves and their communities.”

•The Washington Post

“Harrowing and heroic stories of war and coming home.”

•Maureen Dowd, *The New York Times*

“Schultz and Chandrasekaran couldn’t be more on point...For Love of Country is important reading.”

•The Huffington Post

“[Schultz and Chandrasekaran] are on target in calling for a societal salute to America’s new generation of veterans.”

•St. Louis Post-Dispatch

“Howard Schultz and Rajiv Chandrasekaran have allowed readers everywhere an up close look at what our country’s war heroes and veterans do for us. The scenes to which we’re made privy are at times heartbreaking, inspiring or both.”

•Everyday eBook

“Filled with inspiring narratives.”

•Library Journal

“Inspiring....will certainly move readers who have served in the military, as well as...fans of military histories and those who have close contact with the courageous soldiers who put their lives on the line.”

•Kirkus

“This splendid book should be read by every American. It is a story of heroes, of sacrifice, of valor. But it is also a story of resilience, recovery, and a continuing desire to serve our country and its citizens. You must be made of stone to read this and not shed tears. But the book’s message is that, after the tears, we must not forget the sacrifices those in uniform and their families have made for all of us over the last thirteen years; we must welcome back into our communities those who served not just with thanks and open arms, but with respect, admiration, and new lives and careers worthy of all they have done for all of us.”

•Robert M. Gates, author

of Duty—“A truly inspirational, uplifting book, one that will fill you with pride in America—our new Greatest Generation in war and in peace.”—**General David H. Petraeus, U.S. Army, Retired**

Howard Schultz, left, is chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Starbucks, where he has been recognized for his leadership, business ethics, and efforts to strengthen communities. He and his wife, Sheri, have pledged extensive support to help veterans make successful transitions to civilian life through the Schultz Family Foundation's Onward Veterans initiative. Schultz is the best-selling author of Onward: How Starbucks Fought for Its Life Without Losing Its Soul and Pour Your Heart Into It. Rajiv Chandrasekaran is a senior correspondent and associate editor at The Washington Post, where he has worked since 1994. He has been the newspaper's bureau chief in Baghdad, Cairo, and Southeast Asia, and he has been covering Afghanistan off and on for a decade. Chandrasekaran is the author of Little America and Imperial Life in the Emerald City, which was named one of the 10 Best Books of 2007 by The New York Times.

I gave it five stars even though the book evoked many emotions in me...some not so pleasant memories. I was a Viet Nam vet (Navy, and while we engaged in battle it was safely from a ship, thus I am no hero). But it was painful to see the treatment of true heroes (some without medals to show for it), being ridiculed by anti-war protestors. It was even worse to find how our government had deceived us. I have long felt shame for the way we viewed veterans near the VA hospital in L.A. as drunks. Of course we had no understanding of PTS then so perhaps it is somewhat understandable. Remember the scene, it Patton, where the general slapped the soldier for being afraid to return to combat? No one knows how they will react...certainly those who have received medals, especially Medal of Honor winners, do not feel they did anything special...and most feel guilt for their buddies who died, to them: the real heroes!! I was at my ship's reunion three years ago at The Alamo, the first time people ever came up and said, 'thank you for your service". I was moved by that...and whenever I see a person in the armed forces I say that...the book pointed out that there is much more than words that we can do to support and honor them. The draft was unfair...but when the Supreme Court ruled it illegal something else should have been done to instill service into our young people, as many other countries do (Israel, Switzerland, etc.). Upon turning

18 or leaving high school, I believe there should be mandatory public service for two years: not just military; it could be a hospital or any kind of public service and It should be at least 100 miles from home to teach independence. It is truly sad that we have left our country's safety to 1% of the population who are grossly underpaid and cared for after their service (if they survive it). Worse yet, is the miniscule number of people in elected office who have never served, yet are eager to commit our young people to war, generally politically motivated. Part One of the book evoked strong emotions in me...bringing tears to my eyes. By the end I was numbed to the carnage. Part Two was trying to put meaning on the sacrifices described. It too involved sacrifice - personal sacrifice - giving up monetary gains to make a difference. It was very moving. I agree with the first reviewer that in this world of people preying on others pain, a list of worthy organizations is provided, so your dollars (and volunteering) can go where it belongs. Highly recommended!

I've heard many founders of large businesses speak about veterans issues. As a veteran and author, I can't help but roll my eyes listening to most of it. They are semi-well intentioned, but most of them miss the point. They miss the core of many issues because they are complicated and nuanced. This book was a breath of fresh air from a founder, risk taker, and now business icon- Howard Shultz. He teamed up with an amazing author and editor/writer from the Washington Post, Rajiv Chandrasekaran to deliver a great blend of stories. Howard Shultz is making an incredible effort to not only understand veterans, but hire them and their spouses at Starbucks. As a veteran this was a refreshing read, and felt like a real, "thank you for your service." Highly recommended.

I believe EVERY American should read this book! This book was an eye-opener for me. I already respected the men and women in our military but this book made the sacrifice they make more REAL to me. I pray each veteran may know how much they are appreciated! Our government should be ashamed of the way, they treat these heroes when they return home. We watch and pay The 'Kardashians' more than these wonderful men and women who endure such misery so that each of us can have the freedom to watch such silly inconsequential fluff! Love your freedom, THANK A Soldier/ a Veteran! I SO appreciate even more you and your families sacrifice for MY freedom! Thank you sounds so simple but truly THANK YOU!

It has saddened me for such a long time that there is such a profound disconnect in our country between those who have served and those who have not. That there is such misunderstanding about what it is like to be active duty or a spouse - and about the amazing qualifications both bring

to the table. As one who has been both active duty and a spouse, I can relate to both sides of the equation. Quite frankly, I have been in favor of a mandatory 2-3 year tour of duty for some years now precisely because of these issues. It was a sense of both hope and curiosity that compelled me to purchase this book, along with a feeling of dread in case it wasn't what was promised. It was, and more. The people in this book are not singular in what they have done - there are thousands more like them serving in our armed forces. They have courage, commitment, and the ability to think on their feet. They are strong, compassionate and adaptable. Above all, they are the few doing a job that far too few are willing to do. It's nice to hear appreciation for service - but it's better to see someone finding a way to show appreciation. Actions speak louder than words - it's been around forever because it's truer than many people like to admit. Read this book. Understand what these folks are really about. And then find a way to do your part for them. Because far too many are falling by the wayside in ways that are preventable.

If you want to be inspired -- then I urge you to read this book. If you want chills up and down your spine -- then I urge you to read this book. If you want to shed a tear -- then I urge you to read this book. For Love of Country truly captures the American spirit. The book masterfully delivers 2 powerful messages and is appropriately divided in its presentation: Part 1 - stories of real heroes who are a real inspiration. Part 2 -- stories of those who are helping mend the wounds of our veterans (and their families) and tells what needs to be done. I titled my review -- I Want to Quit My Job because after reading this book, I want to help even more than I do now. As a non wartime veteran and a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Travis Manion Foundation and David's Drive 831 -- I see the positive impact that organizations make towards our veterans. Charities don't only need our money, Veterans need our compassion. I'm literally going to seek a full-time position for a veterans non-profit organization -- so if any organization is out there and needs me, feel free to contact me.

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