



Brothers Forever: The Enduring Bond between a Marine and a Navy SEAL that Transcended Their Ultimate Sacrifice

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Four weeks after Navy SEALs had killed Osama bin Laden, the President of the United States stood in Arlington National Cemetery. In his Memorial Day address, he extolled the courage and sacrifice of the two young men buried side by side in the graves before him: Travis Manion, a fallen US Marine, and Brendan Looney, a fallen US Navy SEAL. Although they were killed three years apart, one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan, these two best friends and former roommates were now buried together—"brothers forever."

Award-winning journalist Tom Sileo and Travis's father, former Marine colonel Tom Manion, tell the intimate and personal story of how these Naval Academy roommates defined a generation's sacrifice after 9/11, and how Travis and Brendan's loved ones overcame heartbreak to carry on in their memory. From Travis's incredible heroism on the streets of Fallujah to Brendan's anguished Navy SEAL training in the wake of his friend's death and his own heroism in the mountains of Afghanistan, *Brothers Forever* is a remarkable story of friendship, family, and war.

Brothers Forever: The Enduring Bond between a Marine and a Navy SEAL that Transcended Their Ultimate Sacrifice Details

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Grace says

I first bought this book because it sounded really good, and it had received great reviews. Once I began reading, I found that the reviews were all very true. Tom Sileo and [Tom Manion] tell the story of US Marine Travis Manion and US Navy SEAL Brendan Looney, who always put their country and men first. The words of Sileo and [Manion] encapsulate the hard work, perseverance, and honor of both Travis Manion and Brendan Looney, who gave their lives fighting for their country. I, agreeing with the many reviews, found this story to be very inspiring and heartfelt. This was the type of book, that once I picked it up, I found it very difficult to put down (Warning: it was also a tear-jerker). I would recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a good story, but also one about two examples of brave, honorable American Heroes.

Karen says

Although the dates & sequence of events was a bit hard to follow, I enjoyed the book. I do wish that we could have learned more about these 2 extraordinary fellows when they were younger; I would have liked to know how their work ethic & passion for their country became ingrained in each of them. More than their friendship, their passion for their country is astounding. They truly exemplified how freedom is not free. The training, hard work & sacrifice they went thru should be a wake-up call to all of us as to it takes to defend this country. They truly are 2 inspirational gentlemen who should be commended for their service and their sacrifice; may their deaths never be in vain!!

Michael says

In Brothers Forever, award-winning journalist Tom Sileo and retired Marine Colonel Tom Manion tell the story of Manion's son Travis and his roommate and best friend Brendan Looney. Both gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The book tells how the two met and became fast friends at the Naval Academy. When they watched the towers fall on 9/11, they knew and understood the seriousness of their task.

Through the book, Sileo and Manion tell of the friendship that Looney and Manion shared. They tell of the faith of a mother who prayed for her son and her second son.

I will admit that I had a hard time getting through the first portion of the book. It seemed a little slow. But, as I knew what was coming and Manion was deployed the intensity grew. Even though I knew it was coming, when Travis died, I felt the loss. I sensed the grief of his family.

This may not be the best written book about the War on Terror and the sacrifices made, but I believe it is one of the most important. While politicians and pundits argue about whether we should have gone to

Afghanistan and Iraq, Travis Manion and Brendan Looney accepted the call to defend their country.

They rest beside each other now at Arlington Cemetery. Their story is worth your time.

Teri Ederhoff savage says

Thank you.

As sad as this story is, it is one that makes me proud and inspired by these two men who gave all. Their families are testimonies of survivors and how to take something so tragic and do something good. Thank you for sharing this story with us all.

GymGuy says

Before I get started, I know I'm going to get criticized for my rating. So, right off the top, I'm going to say I'm reviewing the BOOK, NOT the Manion and Looney. Their lives should be an example to all of us.

However, like another book that I read that was similar, I felt that the TELLING of the story was weak. Again, like the other, it read like a stack of 4x6 cards that the author had collected during interviews and research and then simply sorted them and tried to link them.

Five stars for the subject material, not so much for the telling.

Tiffany Mercer says

This book is tragic and devastating and so very difficult to read BUT it a wonderful tribute to these two selfless, courageous men. What better way to honor them than tell their life stories and detail the incredible sacrifices they made for their country? Every time I read a story about our soldiers I become that much more grateful for their service & dedication to those of us sitting here safe and sound. What an amazing story.

Tara Davis says

Very touching story!

Erik Ulmer says

Brothers Forever is the story of Travis Manion, a Marine, and Brendan Looney, a Navy Seal, who devoted their life to doing good. Travis and Brendan first meet at the United states Naval Academy, where they were roommates. This was the start to a friendship that would last a life time. They became closer than brothers. This book tells the stories from when Travis and Brendan amazing lives. I think most people would enjoy

this story. Especially anyone who would like to hear the story of two true American heroes. This is an action packed book that you don't want to put down. This story is from the time they attended the Naval Academy to the end of their lives. Even though Travis and Brendan were killed in different countries and three years apart they were reunited when they were buried side by side at Arlington National Cemetery.

Before Travis Manion left for his second deployment to Iraq he was asked why he was going. To this he responded "If not me, then who" These were the words he lived his life doing even until the very last moments. He was a true warrior and in my opinion he will never be forgotten. The same goes for Brendan Looney. He lived by the motto; be strong, be accountable, and never complain. This showed through out his entire life because he never asked somebody to do a task he wouldn't do. Overall Brothers Forever is a great book that anyone would like and enjoy reading.

Mark Zanghetti says

This is a fantastic book and not only well written and emotionally challenging but creates an awe inspiring picture of two men who are shining examples of what it means to be both top officers and compassionate human beings. I wish I was half the man these two young men were starting to become. The book will be a excellent addition to anyone's library.

Gina says

This was a very emotional book for me to read. I think I probably had tears in my eyes at least about 75% of the time I was reading it. The story of these 2 heroes has stuck with me long after I finished the reading the last page. This book is a fitting tribute to them, and the ultimate sacrifice that they both made. I felt like I got to know who they both were as they grew into the men they would become. I enjoy books that make me think, and this one definitely did that.

Bonnie says

Emotional down to earth book. True biography of our military. semper fe.

Mark Murphy says

A very touching and emotional story about the bond of warriors and the families they leave behind while they defend us.

Mark Mortensen says

The publicity surrounding the launch of this book came my way early on via an assortment of emails.

“Brothers Forever” is an extraordinary story of two roommates from the United States Naval Academy class of 2004 and the bond they created through friendship, loyalty, devotion, personal challenges, visionary courage, faith and their dedicated selfless sacrifice for freedom. The forward by General John Allen USMC (Ret.) is priceless.

When the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 occurred Travis Manion and Brendan Looney were in the Naval Academy student body knowing their future demanded full well that their current education, leadership training skills and physical fitness would prime them for the call to duty upon graduation. Both accepted their calling not as a burden, but as a positive commitment to serve and protect others. One chose the path to become a Marine Corps officer, while the other became a leading Navy SEAL. Through deployment in distant Operation Freedom ventures one would die in Iraq and one in Afghanistan, but today their caskets rest side by side in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery.

Everyone dies someday. Manion and Looney were full of life and died much too soon, but together they left an everlasting footprint.

The dual biography is a quick read highly emotional rollercoaster that is guaranteed to remain with you.

Christy says

amazing story of great men. difficult to read at times as a mother of a son who's desire is the military. Thank you to the families of all who serve.

Kahne Parsons Walker says

An excellent account of the sacrifices involved in (1) making it through a service academy, (2) serving as a combat leader, and (3) the stresses borne by military families. However, as both of the book's subjects died in combat, the writer is left with primarily emails and letters written to family and friends by young men who, let's face it, do not constitutionally bend towards introspection but rather action. In short, the end result is myopic. Also, the fact that the father of the slain Marine is co-author, does naturally grant the lion's share of coverage to Lt. Manion. Still, it's greatest value is to inform the 99% who don't serve in arms what a gulf exists between us and the 1% who do.
