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## **Young Author Pays Tribute To A True American Hero In *Hal Moore: A Soldier Once...and Always***

El Paso, TX – Receiving a prestigious award is always a reason to be proud, but to receive the Gold Medal Book Award from the Military Writers Society of America at age 30 when you have only been writing for six years is extraordinary! Mike Guardia earned this award for his latest book, *Hal Moore: A Soldier Once...and Always* – a fully illustrated biography of one of our nation’s most respected combat leaders of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Guardia does a superb job of capturing the life and career of this remarkable man who truly was “the real deal!” The exploits of Hal Moore captured the world’s attention in his memoir, *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young*, and Mel Gibson brought him to life in the box office smash hit, ‘We Were Soldiers.’

With this year marking the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Ia Drang, the first full-blown battle to take place between U.S. soldiers and the North Vietnamese, we are reminded of the extraordinary combat skills of a man who, while ridiculously outnumbered and nearly overrun, lead his men to victory. It comes as no surprise that this gracious and humble man would astound the world with a compelling display of forgiveness when he returned to Vietnam years later and openly embraced his one-time enemy counterpart.

Until recently, little was known about this American icon beyond the Ia Drang battle. Mike Guardia impressively changed that in his latest book, *Hal Moore: A Soldier Once...and Always*. Readers learn of Moore’s heroic battles in the Korean War, his valued service in Occupied Japan, and even his efforts to help rebuild the post-Vietnam Army. Through Guardia’s eloquent words, readers gain insight into not only the heroic deeds of one of the greatest battlefield commanders of our time, but the workings of a man, without bravado or ego, who got the job done with the safety of his men uppermost in his mind.

Today, at age 93, Hal Moore lives a quiet life in Auburn, Alabama. He graciously allowed the author several interviews and granted him full access to his collection of letters, documents, and never-before-published photographs.

Mike Guardia is a Captain in the United States Army Reserve. He served six years on active duty in a variety of leadership and staff positions. He holds a BA and MA in American History from the University of Houston. As an author, his previous works include *Shadow Commander* and *American Guerrilla*. He currently lives in Texas. Mike donates a portion of the book sales to one of his favorite charities - the USO.

For more, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hal-Moore-A-Soldier-Once-and-Always/1406627382912279>

*Hal Moore: A Soldier Once...and Always*

Casemate Publishers

Available at <http://www.casematepublishing.com/title.php?isbn=9781612002071>

and at Barnes & Noble, Books-a-Million, and Amazon.com

Available in all major digital tablet platforms

\$32.95 Hardcover

ISBN-13: 978-1612002071