



Six Years in the Hanoi Hilton: An Extraordinary Story of Courage and Survival in Vietnam

Amy Shively Hawk, John McCain (Foreword)

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With a foreword by Senator John McCain.

In 1967, U.S. Air Force fighter pilot James Shively was shot down over North Vietnam. After ejecting from his F-105 Thunderchief aircraft, he landed in a rice paddy and was captured by the North Vietnamese Army. For the next six years, Shively endured brutal treatment at the hands of the enemy in Hanoi prison camps. Back home his girlfriend moved on and married another man. Bound in iron stocks at the Hanoi Hilton, unable to get home to his loved ones, Shively contemplated suicide. Yet somehow he found hope and the will to survive--and he became determined to help his fellow POWs.

In a newspaper interview several years after his release, Shively said, "I had the opportunity to be captured, the opportunity to be interrogated, the opportunity to be tortured and the experience of answering questions under torture. It was an extremely humiliating experience. I felt sorry for myself. But I learned the hard way life isn't fair. Life is only what you make of it."

Written by Shively's stepdaughter Amy Hawk--whose mother Nancy ultimately reunited with and married Shively in a triumphant love story--and based on extensive audio recordings and Shively's own journals, *Six Years in the Hanoi Hilton* is a haunting, riveting portrayal of life as an American prisoner of war trapped on the other side of the world.

Six Years in the Hanoi Hilton: An Extraordinary Story of Courage and Survival in Vietnam Details

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From Reader Review Six Years in the Hanoi Hilton: An Extraordinary Story of Courage and Survival in Vietnam for online ebook

Phoebe Phuong says

Jim Shively was one of few survived americans return from the Vietnam war. He was known among his people for his calm manner and loving family. His survival is a positive story of faith and American patriotism.

Those were my perceptions after finishing the captioned book. Besides that, the book is nothing but an eulogy for the remarkable life of war hero Jim Shively. Its depiction of the inhumane treatment by the "V" appeared to be rather common in any war prisons. The fact that the book were written by Jim's step daughter based on his interview tapes made the memoir lacks the depth of the life behind the bars. Descriptions of event therefore were one-sided, sporadic and incoherent. Given Jim's background in political science and his practice in U.S. attorney office, the story could have recounted more insights and relevant anecdotes during those turbulent years.

Wally Kurkiewicz says

Excellent book.

Jim Dulin says

A well written tribute to a hero by his noble daughter.

I flew Cobras in the Air Cavalry and was shot down and chased by the NVA. Through God's providence I was found by my Troop within a few hours. I was not the hero Jim was. God doesn't test us beyond our spirit. The spirit of Jim was such that God could use him to inspire us all.

Steve says

A great read about survival, determination, and courage. James Shively was a fighter pilot in the United States Air Force. In 1967, he was shot down over North Vietnam. After ejecting from his F-105 Thunderchief jet, he landed in a rice paddy and was captured by the North Vietnamese Army. For six years, Shively endured brutal treatment by the North Vietnamese at the notorious POW camp known as the Hanoi Hilton. He describes the brutal torture methods and the beatings by his captors. Later on after his release in 1973, He became a lawyer but later on decided to leave and help other Vietnam veterans who were former POW's with PTSD.

R Seykora says

This is not a book that one will want to pick up over and over, but it shares the experience of one Vietnam POW. The author, daughter of the POW, writes with love, respect and admiration. Her father's experience shaped his life and he touched the lives of many.

Deborah Young says

An inspiring story of a great American!

I selected this book to get insight into the treatment prisoners received in Hanoi. I selected it mainly to learn more about John McCain's treatment. The book was about Jim Shively, but it wasn't a disappointment. He was a great American in every respect.

Susannah Clarke says

Six Years in the Hanoi Hilton offers a first-hand account of what life was like as a POW in Vietnam. Brutally honest and thought provoking, this is not a book you will forget easily. In the words of Jim, "There are certain times you think about it (Veitnam)...you think about the lessons you learned there, like setting your priorities. What I found out is that you don't need a lot of material things to be happy. I'm thankful for my family, my health, and my ability to come and go as I please. I could have died that day over North Vietnam, but for some reason I didn't. Any day after that is a good day."

Everydayreader1 says

In 1967, U.S. Air Force fighter pilot James Shively was shot down while flying an F-105 Thunderchief aircraft over North Vietnam. He was captured and held prisoner there for the next six years. He returned home in 1973, went to law school and served as an attorney in both private practice and government service. As a prisoner of war, Jim Shively served his country with honor and distinction. He was a man of great character and conviction.

I am blessed to have had the opportunity to read this biography. There is much I can take away from this book and apply to my own life. So many have endured so much for the love of this country. And I am thankful for each and every one who has made the choice to protect our freedom.

Sharon says

I watched a PBS American Experience documentary called Return With Honor about the POWs in Vietnam. It was interesting and, of course, very sad. It made me want to know more so I read this book. I don't think I learned much more with this book written by the daughter of a POW, but it is an amazing story of survival.

Flowergarden24 says

It is great to be reminded of what some people have endured that is way beyond my own little struggles. This man was so resilient, strong . It is impressive to survive such conditions for so long and come home to resume life not in a ruined way, but in an even deeper and stronger way. Not everyone was able to handle such conditions as well as James Shively but his extraordinary character illuminates their trials and all of them should be respected. What a great inspiring story that needed to be told.

Clayton Turner says

“The prisoners found their greatest since of strength in their faith; faith in their country and faith in their god. ... In strict violation of the rules Brigadier General Risner set up a church service. The men who wanted to participate wrote out hymns on toilet paper and joined together in songs of praise. As they were singing the guards burst in and grabbed Risner to take him back to solitary confinement. But the presence of God filled the room emboldening the prisoners and instead of sitting down and shutting up they sang louder. As Risner was led away for punishment he heard a familiar refrain resounding through the camp:

“Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?” ~ Amy Shively Hawk, Six Years in the Hanoi Hilton
An Extraordinary Story of Courage and Survival in Vietnam

Rose says

Wonderful book about Resilience

A must read, a powerful book on how POWs banded together through the most difficult times! Definitely an inspirational book "Don't sweat the small stuff"

Newby says

A must read. For me Jim story was more of my story to Jim and I were born in the same year we both went our separate ways after grad graduating from high school in 1960 I joined

This is a must read book for anyone that's interested in military history interested in me Vietnam War thank you so much for writing this book and sharing with all of us the things that Jim had to put through up with with the Vietnam people I know that there are a lot of good people and even in Vietnam even in the war as

that one prisoner I mean one guard through the cross jumpseat he was a good man and he took care of Jim the best you could and I thank him for that and I look forward to seeing Jim because I know that he was saved by the grace of God thank you

Sherri Dybdahl says

I love it when I meet someone through a book who personifies the kind of character that makes the world a good place, a hopeful place; and in the case of Jim Shively he does so even when experiencing some of the worst mankind has to offer. I almost didn't read the book because I thought I wouldn't be able to tolerate reading about the torture and conditions the POWs experienced, but I'm so glad I chose to read it anyway. Amy Shively Hawks writing was easy to read, and the stories provided by Jim's recordings and by others who knew him are rich and meaningful and will leave you wishing you'd known the man. A book well worth reading.

Sozie says

I was so honored to read this book - this family is so awesome, warm and engaging and I was lucky enough to spend a few years as a college roommate with Jim's two younger daughters. I bought this book right away when it was released and am just now reading it. I knew some of Jim's story because of my connection to the family and from a couple short visits to his home where I met him briefly. My heart swelled to read this book, lovingly written by his stepdaughter. Amy, kudos to you on doing such a great job and remembering your Dad with so much honor and integrity. Xoxo.
