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Tragedy of Unknown Heroes

SGT. OSVALDO FERNANDEZ GORDIAN

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ABOUT THE BOOK These are the stories of four of the thousands of American Puerto Ricans that served in the U.S. Armed forces during the Viet Nam War. They served just like many good patriotic American young men and women back in the U.S.A. Some were drafted, some volunteered. But they all had something in common. They served with honor, bravery and pride, just like their fellow Americans back in the main land. But unlike their comrades in the states, nobody ever bother to write about them. Even thou they are quote as "the best infantry men in the U.S. Army" by Al Pacino in the Academy Award winner movie, "Scent of a Woman" and Mel Gibson mentions on his movie "We Were Soldiers", that "he's got a Captain from Puerto Rico in his staff', as if that was the only Puerto Rican officer ever to serve in the U.S. armed forces, or as if Puerto Rico is a Third World independent republic, being in fact a U.S. territory, no one ever, never, had given the real importance and merits of the Puerto Rican presence in the U.S. Armed Forces in all wars and conflicts. They had never been mentioned in any American book or movie. The book, "TRAGEDY OF UNKNOWN HEROES", is about just four of the thousands of Puerto Rican soldiers that had served in the U.S. armed forces in eight wars, from the First World War to Afghanistan. With ranks that ranged from little privates to great Generals, all of them straight from the island. Many of them are winners of numerous combat medals, Medals of Honor, commendations and citations. Puerto Ricans even had a woman Surgeon General from the Navy appointed by the President of the U.S.A., thus and the latest, a woman member of the Supreme Court and an Astronaut just appointed by President Obama. But this book is about those four Puerto Rican Americans grunts from the lower ranks that had dreams, hopes and expectations and were affected by the Viet Nam War and nobody ever care to mention or even remember them. Octavio had a dream, very simple, just to become an American hero and to go back to his island being a personality, to impress the girl he had lost, so he volunteered. Carlitos was hoping to someday, achieve his version of the American dream in the island but he was drafted into the U.S. Army. Yoyo was a great athlete, and his dream was to participate in the Olympics and to marry his girl but also volunteered. Oscar 'was a born Americanized warrior, from the Boy Scouts of America to the U.S. Army and later to the U.S. Air Force. He was eager to become an American hero. But the Viet Nam War changed their dreams, their future. Tragedy became their shadow and worst of all, were ignored, forgotten and betrayed by the society that sent them to war.

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