My name is Dick Durrance. I grew up in Aspen Colorado. My dad, Dick Durrance, was an Olympic skier who brought the 1960s World Championships to Aspen.

In 1967, America was in need of soldiers to fight the Communists in Vietnam. I was drafted and I had no idea what to expect. I was immediately whisked away on a train to basic training. I was taken from everyone and everything I knew and into the unknown.

My training was intense. It felt unreal. We were given rifles and told to shoot at cardboard silhouettes of men. Sadly some recruits couldn’t even handle that.

The training became more extreme when we began hand-to-hand combat. I heard myself yelling “Kill! Kill!”

I was being shaped into a warrior.
I graduated from basic training as a photojournalist and prepared myself to document events all over Vietnam. It was time to do my job!

My first firefight near Saigon was unforgettable. I was overwhelmed by the noise and destruction.

I ran through the debris, darting from tree to tree and I realized that I was so focused on photography that I didn’t consider the danger until someone got hit.

I once witnessed four men get wounded but their brothers had their backs.

That’s when I knew that, united, we could stand against anything.

I always wanted to help but my job was only to capture the moment... nothing more.

After that, all I could think about was him.

While in country, I learned that I had to come to terms with my fear and push on.

I had to continue to document and share the experiences of the Vietnam War through my photos.

The world deserved that much.

After the war I began my civilian life and was hired by National Geographic to continue developing my talent and passion.

I was able to travel all over the world and my wife even joined me for a couple of trips!

Now, I spend my time taking pictures of various landscapes and golf courses around the US.

I live in Carbondale, Colorado with my talented wife and wonderful dogs.

Overcoming fear and manipulating life’s obstacles allowed me to earn military medals, win photography awards, given TED Talks and survive the most confusing and controversial war in American history.

Now I can appreciate my place in history and my home here in Colorado.

THE END
Dick Durrance

Panel 1: Picture of camera to the right hand side of long panel with fade into a young Dick Durrance looking happy and using hand gestures with mountains in back (photo on right is for facial reference)

- Caption: “My name is Dick Durrance II and I was a photojournalist during the Vietnam War.”
- Caption: “I grew up in Aspen Colorado.”
- Caption: “My dad, Dick Durrance I, was an Olympic skier who brought the 1950s World Championships to Aspen!”

Panel 2: Show men standing in line with hands raised (like photo) and make the man looking at the camera in the unzipped black jacket look like Mr. Durrance

- Caption: “In 1969, America was in need of soldiers to fight the Communists in Vietnam”
- Caption: “I was drafted and I had no idea what to expect.”
Panel 3: Picture of a train with recruits in the windows and a conductor standing on the side

- Caption: “I was immediately whisked away on a train to basic training.”
- Caption: “I was taken from everyone and everything I knew and into the unknown.”

Panel 4: Close up of Dick shooting at cardboard silhouettes of men with other men surrounding him. At end of line shows a man breaking down from nerves like pic below. (Long panel across page)

- Caption: ”My training was intense. It felt unreal.”
- Caption: “We were given rifles and told to shoot at cardboard silhouettes of men, sadly some recruits couldn’t even handle that.”
Panel 5: Show sergeant screaming into Durrance's face and him replying back loudly with urgency.

- Caption: “The training became more extreme when we began hand-to-hand combat. I heard myself yelling “Kill! Kill!”
- Caption: “I was being shaped into a warrior.”
- Sargent (yelling): “ARE YOU READY FOR THIS OR NOT YOU WEEPING WILLOW!”
Panel 1: Dick being given a camera and being “taught” how to use it.

- Caption: “I graduated from basic training as a photojournalist and prepared myself to document events all over Vietnam.”
- Caption: “It was time to do my job!”

Panel 2: Show vegetation of war area, trees bushes etc. with men shooting and explosions along with onamonapias (boom, bang)

- Caption: “My first firefight, near Saigon, was unforgettable. I was overwhelmed by the noise and destruction.”
Panel 3: Show Dick in the trees with his camera lowered. His face is horrified as a soldier is wounded.

- Caption: “I ran through the debris, darting from tree to tree and I realized that I was so focused on photography that I didn’t consider the danger until someone got hit.”
- Caption: “After that, all I could think about was him.”

Panel 4: Men being carried away through cross fire and Dick photographing them; Dick has a distraught look on his face.

- Caption: “I once witnessed four men get wounded but their brothers had their backs.”
- Caption: “That’s when I knew that, united, we could stand against anything.”
Caption: “I always wanted to help but my job was only to capture the moment...nothing more.”

Panel 5: Dick with a similar expression as in this picture of him but he is taking a picture of his army brothers marching through a rice paddy.

Caption: “While in country, I learned that I had to come to terms with my fear and push on.”
Caption: “I had to continue to document and share the experiences of the Vietnam War through my photos.”

Caption: “The world deserved that much.”

Panel 6: A globe with Dick flying from South Africa to the Soviet Union in a plane with camera in hand

Caption: “After the war I began my civilian life and was hired by National Geographic to continue developing my talent and passion.”

Caption: “I was able to travel all over the world and my wife even joined me for a couple of trips!”

Panel 7: Show pic of Garden of Gods on left and golf course on right with a house in front and in the middle of panel with Dick and his wife
Now, I spend my time taking pictures of various landscapes and golf courses around the U.S.
I live in Carbondale, Colorado with my talented wife and wonderful dogs.
Overcoming fear and manipulating life’s obstacles allowed me to earn military medals, win photography awards, given TED Talks and survive the most confusing and controversial war in American history. Now I can appreciate my place in history and my home here in Colorado.