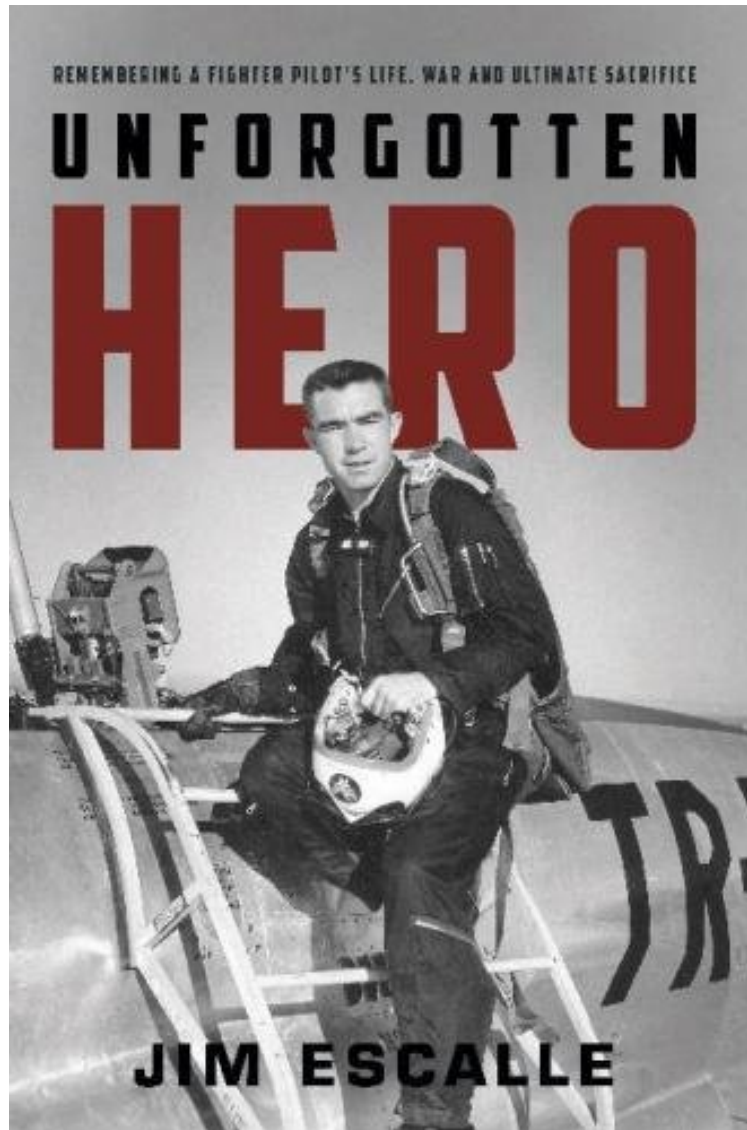


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# Unforgotten Hero: Remembering a Fighter Pilot's Life, War and Ultimate Sacrifice

*Jim Escalle*

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**Jim Escalle : Unforgotten Hero: Remembering a Fighter Pilot's Life, War and Ultimate Sacrifice** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unforgotten Hero: Remembering a Fighter Pilot's Life, War and Ultimate Sacrifice:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A USAF F-86 PILOT VETERAN REMEMBERS AN AMERICAN HERO By daniel thom THIS BOOK IS WELL WRITTEN , FLOWS NICELY. AND WELL ORGANIZED SO IT

UNFOLDS IN AN ORDERLY FASHION. IT IS VERY WELL RESEARCHED AND DOCUMENTED WITH GOOD FOOTNOTES. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE KOREAN CONFLICT ALONE IS WORTH READING, MANY DETAILS I HAD FORGOTTEN WERE BROUGHT BACK VIVIDLY. THE BUILDUP OF THE TWO BROTHERS' CHARACTERS WAS REALLY ALL-AMERICAN AND REFLECTS THE GOLDEN ERA OF THE 50'S, AGAIN, WITH MANY GREAT DETAILS OF GROWING UP IN THAT TIME PERIOD CAREFULLY DOCUMENTED. THE HISTORY OF EACH PRESIDENT'S CONTRIBUTION WAS INTERTWINED NICELY WITH THE STORYLINE TO SHOW THEIR IMPACT. THEN THE ACTUAL FULFILLMENT OF A BOYHOOD DREAM OF FLYING FOR THE USAF AS A COMBAT READY FIGHTER PILOT WAS DESCRIBED ACCURATELY THROUGH ALL THE STAGES OF PROGRESSION TO WINNING THEIR WINGS. I KNOW BECAUSE I WENT THROUGH THE SAME TRAINING WITH THE SAME DREAMS. THE AUTHOR MUST HAVE DONE HUNDREDS OF HOURS OF PERSONAL INTERVIEWS TO PRESENT SUCH CAREFUL AND ACCURATE A TRANSCRIPT. AND A WONDERFUL MENTAL REVIEW FOR ME IN RECALLING DETAILS LOST OVER 60 YEARS AGO. I DON'T READ AS MUCH AS I USED TO MAINLY BECAUSE IT'S SO HARD TO FIND GOOD WRITING ON INTERESTING SUBJECTS. THIS BOOK IS AN EXCEPTION. I COULDN'T PUT IT DOWN AND I'VE RE-READ MANY PARTS ALREADY, AND THE BOOK IS NOT FOR LOAN. I TELL MY FRIENDS, BUY THIS ONE, YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID. DANIEL B. THOM, FIRST LT. USAF. F-86'S.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding! By Jeffrey Miller There have been numerous books about fighter pilots during the Korean War, all of which have been exceptional accounts, but what I liked most about *Unforgotten Hero*, was how we got to know Second Lieutenant Jimmy L. Escalle from a small boy growing up in California to being a fighter pilot in the skies over Korea during the Korean War. Jim Escalle has penned a riveting and well-written memoir of his uncle--both as a boy and later as a pilot. What really impressed me was that Escalle was like so many young men who heeded their nation's call by joining the military. Readers also get insights into what it took to become a pilot back then as well as flying the first jet fighters in combat. This old Air Force veteran got goosebumps while reading this book. Well done, Jim. Jeffrey Miller, *War Remains, A Korean War Novel*

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Hero we never knew ..... By Bill Great story about a young man growing up in the 1930's and 40's with all the hard work and sacrifices his generation went through as they came of age in early 50's. Too young for WWII but in the right place and right time to become a fighter pilot and fly F-86 Sabres in Korea in 1953. A great read written by a nephew he never knew, but was named after him and did a great amount of research in his honor to tell his story.

*Unforgotten Hero* tells the captivating life story of Second Lieutenant Jimmy L. Escalle, a U.S. Air Force fighter pilot who became missing in action during the Korean War. Growing up in a small farming town in California's San Joaquin Valley during the 1930s and 1940s, Jim was a devoted son, a caring older brother, a talented athlete, and a young man of moral character who always put others first. He started high school as the Second World War was at its peak, and graduated during a time of transition within America and around the world. He had always wanted to fly airplanes someday, and with the introduction of jet propulsion during his high school years, he dreamed of becoming a jet pilot. Called to serve his country after the Korean War began, his dream became a reality when he joined the Air Force and eventually got the opportunity to fly the F-86 Sabre, regarded as the most advanced jet fighter of its time. Soon after arriving in Korea he went on his first missions, which were MiG Alley sweeps. However, since Jim was assigned to a fighter-bomber squadron, the majority of his combat missions were air-to-ground. These were the most dangerous missions. In Korea, more pilots had been killed or listed as MIA due to being shot down by ground fire rather than enemy aircraft. For Jim, this fact was realized only five weeks before the armistice was signed. He paid the ultimate price for freedom when he disappeared while on a combat mission over North Korea and was never seen or heard from again.

"This is a heartwarming book, a labor of love, and doubly valuable for the insight it brings into the life of a warrior and to the country that the warrior defended. Anyone reading this book will see a superb slice of Americana that most of us would like to experience again today. Read this fine book, and you'll see how a true hero lived and died for his country."-- Walter J. Boyne, Colonel, USAF (Ret.), former director of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, member of the National Aviation Hall of Fame, best-selling author "A heartfelt tribute to one of 34,000 mostly anonymous Americans who died defending freedom in South Korea. *Unforgotten Hero* ends with a gut-wrenching revelation that should be known by everyone who wears his country's uniform."-- Barrett Tillman, aviation author and military historian "Marvelous book! I couldn't put it down until I finished reading it. Lieutenant Escalle's life was parallel to mine in many ways."-- Cecil G. Foster, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF (Ret.), fighter pilot, Korea and Vietnam, author of *MiG Alley to Mu Gia Pass: Memoirs of a Korean War Ace* "*Unforgotten Hero* tells a story of not only one brave and devoted person, but encompasses those millions of heroes whose lives have culminated in the defense of our country. Without such dedicated loyalty, this United States would not remain a land of the free in this or any other war."-- Walter D. "Dan" Druen, Lieutenant General, USAF (Ret.), fighter pilot, Korea and Vietnam "This

is a wonderful story, beautifully written. Jim Escalle traces the story of his uncle from a farm childhood in the San Joaquin Valley, into jet combat half a world away in Korea. It's a story unique to his uncle, but common to men all across America who have answered the call of duty. I finished the book feeling as if I'd known these people and lived this life..."-- Stephen P. Randolph, Colonel, USAF (Ret.), fighter pilot, Operation Desert Storm, instructor at National Defense University, author of *Powerful and Brutal Weapons: Nixon, Kissinger, and the Easter Offensive*

About the Author Jim Escalle is the nephew of 2nd Lt. Jimmy L. Escalle. He is a graduate of California State University, Fresno and has been involved in public education for over twenty-five years.