

Eric M. Hammel

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Dear Billy,

Good to hear from you, and thanks for your invitation. Unfortunately, I almost never get back East, and I am just absolutely terrible at giving speeches.

Relating specifically to Tet, my book on the battle for Hue came out in May. It's called FIRE IN THE STREETS: The Battle for Hue and it was published in hardcover by Contemporary Books. I have copies available for autographing. The price is \$24.95 + \$3.50 for shipping (+, in California, \$1.81 sales tax).

I don't know what I'm going to do about the "big" Tet book. I've been toying around at the edges (Hue and Khe Sanh), but it's a dog trying to figure out how to present the Tet story in a book dedicated to the subject. There was so much going on, and so much of it was at the margins. I thought of doing a third partial study on Saigon alone, but much less seems to have happened there than meets the eye. Yes, the Embassy and Thon Son Nhut were briefly exciting, but the heart of the story is Cholon and other civilian areas, and that was mostly an ARVN and VNMC effort -- and who's around to tell their tale? So, from the perspective of a writer like me, there doesn't seem to be a way to do it in a neat package. But I keep thinking there might be.

Take care.

Best,

