

MEET MARVIN TYSON!



Author Bio:

Marvin Tyson is a lifelong Texan of many generations (his first confirmed ancestors arrived in Texas about 1820-24), Marvin was born in Brown County in 1949.

His family was poor while he was growing up. He got his first real job when he was eleven years old working at a Corpus Christi marina for a dollar a day! That was seven days a week when school was out, and it seemed like a ton of money to him. He also got tips from customers that could more than double his salary at times. That let him buy school clothes for the next year and take in a weekly movie (twenty-five cents with a coke and popcorn or candy!).

He served a tour in Vietnam as an infantry platoon leader with the 82nd Airborne and 101st Airborne Divisions. When he came home, he worked anywhere he could find a job until he taught himself how to weld and went into the construction industry as a pipe welder. He went to work at the Amoco Refinery in Texas City where he worked thirty-four years as a welder, supervisor, and apprentice coordinator before retiring in 2009.

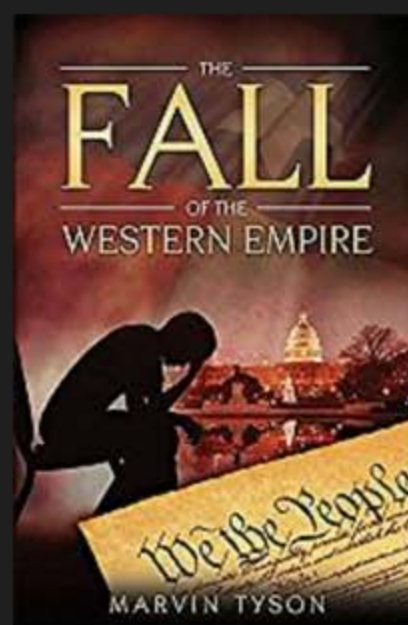
He was asked to come out of retirement last year to develop a pipefitter and welder program for Alvin Community College where he remained until October 2015.

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Published Titles:
**The Fall of the
Western Empire**



COMING SOON...
December's Soldiers
(May 2018)



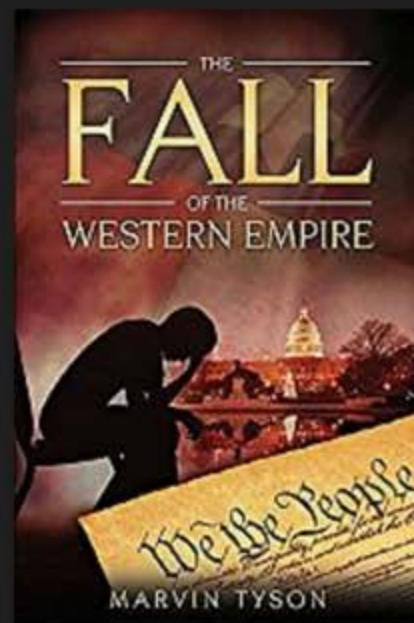
DEFIANCE PRESS
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MARVIN TYSON'S BOOKS



The Fall of the Western Empire (2015)

There are possibly more explanations for the fall of the Roman Empire than for any other event in history: from the theory that links the widespread use of lead in utensils and glass with mental impairment (and hence incapacity for rule) to the sequoia tree theory, which purports to show through reduced ring growth in these ancient trees how the period coinciding with the fall of empire was one of hardship and death. The more bizarre theories are entertaining but devoid of explanatory power. The question still remains: why did the empire fall? As Christie suggests, the question is misconceived, for rather than collapse there was in the west a process of transformation and in the east the empire continued, scarcely less 'Roman' than before even though Rome itself was not a component.



December's Soldiers (2018)

The governor/president was glad the delegates had seen fit to forgo any retributive language in the Declaration; there was no good to come of making a list of "evils" done by their former partners. Instead, they made a simple statement;

"Knowing that Nature and Nature's God has bestowed the right on all people to govern their own affairs, and to chart their own course into the future, for themselves and their posterity, we declare that Texas is henceforth and forevermore a Free and Independent, Sovereign Nation/State, and has all the powers and authorities of any other Sovereign Nation/State upon the Earth. We rely upon Almighty God and his protection to keep it so."

The powerful men who approved that Declaration of Independence would soon learn that the future of Texas and its liberty would be placed in the hands of a new Texan and very pregnant former Washington D.C. call girl and a handful of old cattlemen.



Q&A WITH THE AUTHOR



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Marvin Tyson

Tell us a little about yourself, your background and your book.

I was born in Brown County Texas in 1949, the youngest of seven children. The post-World War II economic boom was slow to come to West Texas and, although we were extremely poor, we never really knew it because everybody else in Brown County was poor too. When my father got a job with a subsidiary of Brown and Root things got a little better for us, but we moved from job to job every few months. I never spent more than a few months in any one place until my fourth grade year in school.

When did you first realize you wanted to be a writer?

My earliest writing was poetry. I don't remember when I wrote my first poem, but it must've been in my early teens, probably in the sixth or seventh grade. Most of my early work is lost to history, and the world is probably better off for it! I still have some poems from my late teens and from my time in Vietnam. I may publish a book of poems at some point in the future.

What is your work schedule like when you're not writing?

I'm a grandfather of nine and great-grandfather of one so that's where most of my non-writing time is spent. I really believe that being a grandparent is God's reward to us for hanging around this long. What a blessing grandchildren are!

What you say is your most interesting writing quirk?

Growing up in primarily agricultural communities in Texas I picked up a lot of colloquialisms and Texas farm wit. And although I tried to wash most of that out of my blogs, political writings, and Facebook posts, I sprinkle it liberally into my books. I enjoy it, it takes me back to my roots, and I think many of my readers enjoy it too.

Where did you get the idea for this book?

The idea for my first book sprang from my work in politics. Like most people that are heavily involved in politics I tend to get very wrapped up in it emotionally, so I would write notes to myself about points that speakers had made, both good and bad, every time I would come home from a meeting. Typically I would make these notes in story form and try to add a little humor to the ones that might've stepped on my toes, and a note of praise about the ones I found to be really good. This gave me the idea of putting it all in book form to see how would come out.

What do you like to do when you're not writing?

When I'm not writing my first love is fishing, followed closely by golf. The only place that I would rather be at sunrise than the first tee of a beautiful golf course is the Gulf of Mexico. It's not easy to explain, perhaps it's the clear water and clear skies a hundred miles from the nearest land, but I feel closer to nature and nature's God far from shore than anywhere else.

Q&A WITH THE AUTHOR



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Marvin Tyson

What does your family think of your writing?

I know my wife thinks I get too wrapped up in my writing, but I think the rest of the family is really supportive.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I always enjoyed reading and writing as a youngster, but it never crossed my mind to be a writer. In fact, I might have been the first person in my circle to dream about being an astronaut. Even though I didn't hear that word used until my late teens I wanted to be a part of space travel from my earliest memories. The closest I ever got in real life was working as a welder for a contractor at NASA in the mid-70s! (I have been fortunate enough to have met several of our astronauts as well as several Russian cosmonauts though.)

How many books have you written?

I have written one book and am close to the end of my second. I still write articles and posts on politics and the U.S. Constitution though, as well as speak publically on those topics.

What were you like at school?

In school I was a handful for my teachers I'm sure. English, history, social studies, science, always came very easy to me. Perhaps because of that I was constantly bored and acting out. The typical "class clown".

What genre are your books?

I tend to write about Texas. Everything I do in fact revolves around Texas and politics. I believe that the most lasting legacy I can leave my children and grandchildren is a love of freedom and Texas. So that is what I concentrate on.

How much research do you do before writing a book?

I think it's imperative to maintain a reputation for honesty and integrity so I research extensively before I write. In fact I try to not even offer an opinion without checking my facts. I want people to be able to trust that what I write is rock-solid truth.

What's the hardest thing about writing in your opinion?

For me, the hardest thing about writing a book, and the greatest difference in writing anything with characters, is to put yourself in the minds of those characters. What I mean by that is; in the context of the story at the time, what would the character do or say in a situation. The grizzled old army sergeant likely would react differently to a violent encounter than a little old lady school teacher, for instance, and you have to deal with that.

Do you read much and what are your favorite authors?

I read extensively and read many different genres from science fiction to historic novels. My favorites though are the classics. From Homer to Edgar Allen Poe, I enjoy all of them. The plays of Shakespeare are probably at the top of my list.

Q&A WITH THE AUTHOR



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Marvin Tyson

Do you proofread/edit your own books or does someone else do that for you?

I would NEVER attempt to edit my own work! Janet Musick, a professional editor, edits for me and I consider her to be the real talent behind most of what I do.

Who published your books?

Defiance Press handles both my publishing and promotional work, and they are good at what they do!

How successful have you been at getting reviews so far?

I have been blessed with many very good reviews for all my work, but I credit that too to my publishers.

What advice would you give to aspiring writers?

My advice to anyone wanting to write is; write with your heart first and your mind second. In other words, write something that moves you and it stands a better chance of moving others.

What was the first rodeo you ever attended?

When I was 4 years old I went to the Bexar County fair and rodeo with my family. That was the first rodeo that I remember attending, and it made a lasting impression. Completely unlike rodeo today, where musical acts are the primary focus, these old-time rodeos were focused on the skills employed by cowboys and cowgirls in the early days of the ranch and farm. That still moves me today.

What is your most memorable/favorite Christmas memory?

My favorite Christmas memory may not fit with what most folks think of as "good times", but it seems that way to those of us who lived it. In December of 1968 I had been assigned to cover an area of Vietnams Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) with my platoon (1st Platoon, Co. A, 2/506th PIR, 101st Airborne Div.). We had been through a lot in a short time. Our area was full of booby traps and mines and we had a high casualty count. Moral was very low because we had seen so many of our men hurt, but also because the weather had been so bad that we could get supplies in. The rain and cloud cover was so thick and constant that helicopters simply could not reach us safely. My men were hungry; we had been scrounging anything we could find for food, even digging up the garbage sumps left by the withdrawing Marines, to find anything to eat. But, even more disheartening, was the fact that the forecast said the weather would remain terrible for several more days at least. That meant no food and no MAIL from home on Christmas! We arose to a gloomy Christmas morning of sad faces and short tempers (I think I would have felt sorry for any enemy that we might contact at the time) but, at almost noon, the clouds cleared as though they had been moved by God's hand, and chopper after chopper appeared as soon as they did! We had hot turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, pumpkin pie and all the traditional Christmas fixins! But, most importantly, we had three weeks' worth of MAIL from home! That is my favorite Christmas memory!