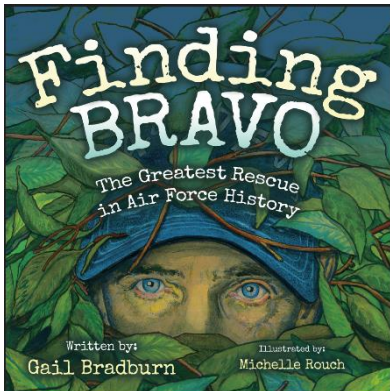


June 2026
Look into My Eyes...

I LOVE the cover of my children's book, FINDING BRAVO: THE GREATEST RESCUE IN AIR FORCE HISTORY, which is **now available for pre-order at [BookPress Publishing](#)**. A huge shoutout to illustrator Michelle Rouch, who is creating fantastic watercolor pages that will make you feel the humidity of the Vietnamese jungle and hear the thump of the helicopters.



And those eyes.

This story is near to my heart. I grew up in Wenona, IL, and so did Lt. Colonel Icelal "Gene" Hambleton. We both walked the halls of Wenona High School, as did my dad, who remembers the Hambleton brothers and the day that Gene's brother flew over town and "waggled his wings." I am honored to bring this courageous story of resilience and rescue to a new generation of readers.

And again, those eyes. I can only imagine the pain, fear, and anticipation reflected in those eyes as Gene Hambleton hoped for a rescue. This month my husband, Jeff, and my father-in-law, Ron, and I visited the National Veteran's Art Museum in Chicago, a "must do" for Ron, who was career Navy and served multiple tours of duty in Vietnam. The artwork created by these veterans was inspiring, heartbreaking, and breathtaking. You have to wonder what their eyes have seen. Ron was welcomed with open arms and sincere gratitude by everyone, including veterans Giselle (Executive Director, USMC) and artist Jenn Hassin (USAF). You'll see Jenn's impressive artwork, constructed of rolled paper made from military uniforms, on the museum's website: [NVAM](#). A huge thank you to the people below, who treated Ron like the hero that he is.

As our nation's 250th birthday arrives, it's a good time to see the world through the eyes of the many who fought for the freedoms we enjoy. Enjoy this wonderful summer! ~ Gail

