

Lewis B. Puller, Jr. papers

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1984-1992

Title Statement

Lewis B. Puller, Jr. papers Guide to the Lewis B. Puller, Jr. papers MS 00443

Author: William & Mary Special Collections Research Center staff

Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections Research Center

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Earl Gregg Swem Library
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Williamsburg, Virginia
Business Number: 757-221-3090
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URL: <https://libraries.wm.edu/libraries-spaces/special-collections>

2026 May

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-06-06 03:01:02 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS 00443

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/10093

Unit Date

1984-1992

Language

English

Extent

.42 Linear Feet 1 Legal size Hollinger box

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Biographical / Historical

Lewis B. Puller was born on August 18, 1945, the son of Lewis "Chesty" Puller, the most decorated marine in the history of the US Marine Corps. Like his father, Lewis Jr. joined the marines during the Vietnam War in July 1968. On October 11, 1968, while encountering North Vietnamese troops, Puller's rifle jammed and he tripped a booby-trapped howitzer round, causing him to lose his right and left legs along with his left hand and most of his fingers on his right hand. After surviving his injuries, he was discharged receiving the Silver Star Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, two Purple Heart Medals, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross for his service in the Marine Corps.

After the Vietnam War, Puller experienced bouts of Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD), depression and alcoholism. Despite these issues, he became an attorney graduating with his Juris-Doctor (JD) from William & Mary Law School. As a lawyer he worked for the Veteran's Administration and on President Gerald Ford's Clemency board. Puller also became involved in politics, though unsuccessful, he ran a campaign for congress representing Virginia in 1978. He later won the Pulitzer Prize for his memoir, *Fortunate Son: The Autobiography of Lewis B. Puller Jr.* The memoir documents his life, particularly his relationship with his father Lewis Puller Sr., his experiences during the Vietnam War and life with his wife Linda "Toddy" Puller as well as children Maggie and Lewis III. Puller continued to suffer from depression and PTSD and died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound on May 11, 1994.

Content Description

Collection includes papers such as correspondence, printed material, correspondence, audio-visual materials and a draft of a manuscript entitled "Fortunate Son."

Keywords

Writing
Manuscripts (document genre)
Printed ephemera
Audiocassettes
Vietnam War, 1961-1975
Vietnam War, 1961-1975--Personal narratives, American
Autobiography
Soldiers' writings, American
United States. Marine Corps

General

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Description of Subordinate Components

Series I. Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667696

Unit Date 1986-1992

Barash, Paul

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667702

Unit Date Circa 1986-1992

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Barnett, Lynn to Sikora, Anne

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667701

Unit Date 1991

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Page, Jen/Office of the Student Association at William & Mary

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667703

Unit Date 1992

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Series II. Writings

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667697

Unit Date Circa 1991

Fortunate Son: The Autobiography of Lewis B. Puller Jr. Original manuscript (1 of 4)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667704

Unit Date Undated

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Fortunate Son: The Autobiography of Lewis B. Puller Jr. Original manuscript (2 of 4)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667705

Unit Date Undated

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Fortunate Son: The Autobiography of Lewis B. Puller Jr. Original manuscript (3 of 4)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667706

Unit Date Undated

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Fortunate Son: The Autobiography of Lewis B. Puller Jr. Original manuscript (4 of 4)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667707

Unit Date Undated

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Fortunate Son (Puller) Index

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667708

Unit Date 1991 April 1

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Notes

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667709

Unit Date Circa 1987

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Series III. Audio-Visual materials

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667698

Unit Date 1992

Fortunate Son by Lewis B. Puller Jr. audio cassette

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667710

Unit Date 1992

Audio-visual materials 1 (box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Series IV. Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667700

Unit Date Undated

Photographs of Lewis B. Puller Jr.

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667711

Unit Date Undated

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Series IV. Printed materials

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667699

Unit Date 1984-1992

Grove Weidenfeld publication announcement of Fortunate Son: An Autobiography by Lewis B. Puller Jr.

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667712

Unit Date 1991-06-17

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Publications

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667713

Unit Date 1984-1992

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)