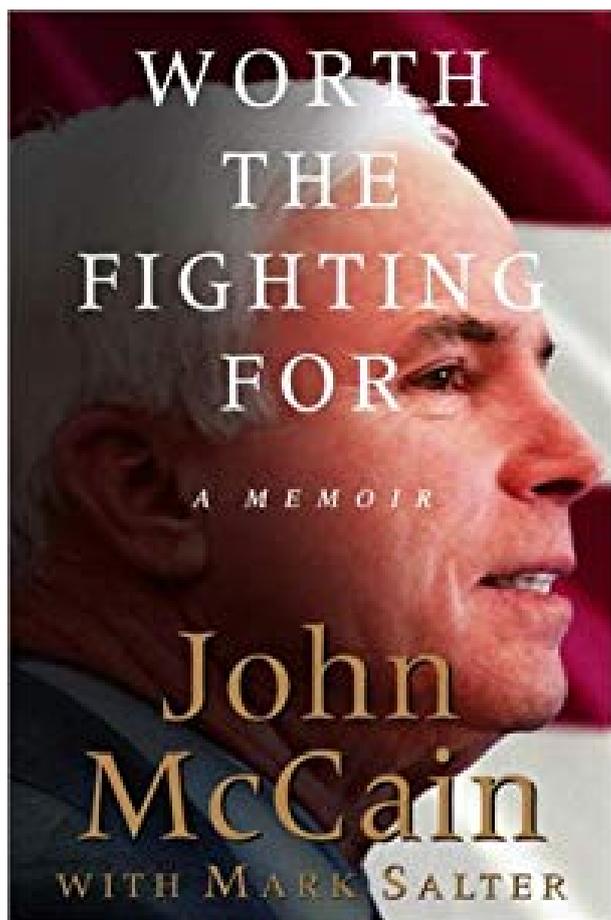


# Worth the Fighting for: A Memoir



<b>ISBN13:</b>	9780375505423
<b>Genre:</b>	Politics
<b>Published:</b>	September 24th 2002 by Random House (NY)
<b>Pages:</b>	396
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>ISBN10:</b>	0375505423
<b>Author:</b>	John McCain
<b>Goodreads Rating:</b>	3.34

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In 1999, John McCain wrote one of the most acclaimed and bestselling memoirs of the decade, *Faith of My Fathers*. That book ended in 1972, with McCain's release from imprisonment in Vietnam. This is the rest of his story, about his great American journey from the U.S. Navy to his electrifying run for the presidency, interwoven with heartfelt portraits of the mavericks who have inspired him through the years—Ted Williams, Theodore Roosevelt, visionary aviation proponent Billy Mitchell, Marlon Brando in *Viva Zapata!* For Whom the Bell Tolls, who showed McCain the ideals of heroism and sacrifice, stoicism and redemption, and why certain causes, despite the costs, are . . . Worth the Fighting For After five and a half years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, naval aviator John McCain returned home a changed man. Regaining his health and flight-eligibility status, he resumed his military career, commanding carrier pilots and serving as the navy's liaison to what is sometimes ironically called the world's most exclusive club, the United States Senate.

Accompanying Senators John Tower and Henry "Scoop" Jackson on international trips, McCain began his political education in the company of two masters, leaders whose standards he would strive to maintain upon his election to the U.

S. Congress. There, he learned valuable lessons in cooperation from a good-humored congressman from the other

party, Morris Udall. In 1986, McCain was elected to the U.S. Senate, inheriting the seat of another role model, Barry Goldwater. During his time in public office, McCain has seen acts of principle and acts of craven self-interest.

He describes both ex-tremes in these pages, with his characteristic straight talk and humor. He writes honestly of the lowest point in his career, the Keating Five savings and loan debacle, as well as his triumphant moments—his return to Vietnam and his efforts to normalize relations between the U.S. and Vietnamese governments; his fight for campaign finance reform; and his galvanizing bid for the presidency in 2000. Writes McCain: A rebel without a cause is just a punk. Whatever you're called—rebel, unorthodox, nonconformist, radical—it's all self-indulgence without a good cause to give your life meaning. This is the story of McCain's causes, the people who made him do it, and the meaning he found. *Worth the Fighting For* reminds us of what's best in America, and in ourselves.