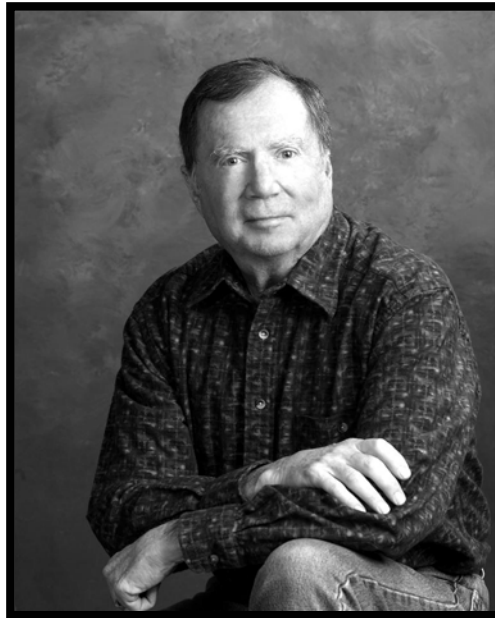# ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Jesse Marcel

Born August 30, 1936 in Houston, Texas, Marcel is a retired military officer who served as a medical officer in the United States Navy. He joined the Navy in 1962 just in time to participate in the Cuban Missile Crisis by serving onboard a troop transport ship.

Prior to joining the Navy, Marcel attended Louisiana State University, School of Medicine, graduating in 1961. While in the Navy he received specialty training in Otolaryngology, and upon leaving the Navy in 1971 opened a medical practice in Helena, Montana. Eventually, he joined the Montana National Guard as a medical officer and earned his Flight Surgeon Wings at Ft. Rucker, Alabama. During his career in the National Guard, Marcel was appointed State Surgeon of Montana.

After retiring from the military, the Iraqi war (Operation Iraqi Freedom) required his return to active duty in September 2004. At age 69, he spent 13 months as a flight surgeon for the 189th Helicopter Battalion in Iraq, where he flew more than 225 combat hours in a Blackhawk helicopter.

Currently, Marcel is employed as an Otolaryngology specialist by the VA Hospital at Ft. Harrison, Montana. He and his wife Linda live nearby in Helena.