

# Dedication

*Hamid R. Nemati --*

This book is dedicated to the most wonderful people in my life about whom there can never be enough good things said. Try as I may, all my attempts fall short. To my wife, my best friend, my soul mate and the love of my life for her passion for free thinking and tolerance and for being a constant reminder of all good things that are possible. To my son, for his energy, enthusiasm and free spirit. Being your father has been the most fulfilling experience in my life. To my parents who have always been there for me with love and unwavering support from beginning and whose love has sustained me through it all. They both have encouraged me to develop a love for learning and have shown me the joys of discovery. You are all my greatest inspiration and have touched my life in so many wonderful ways and left me a better person because it.

*Christopher D. Barko --*

This book and research are dedicated to my wonderful and loving wife, Cindy, and my beautiful children, Matthew and Sarah, whose priceless smiles at the end of the day make it all worthwhile. Without your support, sacrifice and understanding this book would not have been possible.

I also want to dedicate this book and research to my magnificent and loving parents and grandparents who taught me the joys of computing, a love for nature and a disciplined work ethic that amply rewards those who diligently and meticulously search for the truth. Thanks Mom and Dad.

I also dedicate this book to my brother, Mike, and sisters, Lizzie and Katie, whose friendship and companionship over the years are immeasurable. Vigorously pursue your dreams and may happiness accompany you wherever you go.

To my friends, both new and old, a heartfelt thanks to you for your wonderful friendship that has made my life immeasurably richer and more fulfilling.

To all those readers who appreciate nature's beauty in its many facets while on the trails or trekking to the mountaintops, may you find solitude and inner peace in its captivating splendor and elegant perfection.

And lastly, I want to thank my friend and mentor Hamid Nemati whose guidance, friendship, dedication and encouragement for this book and research have made it all a success.