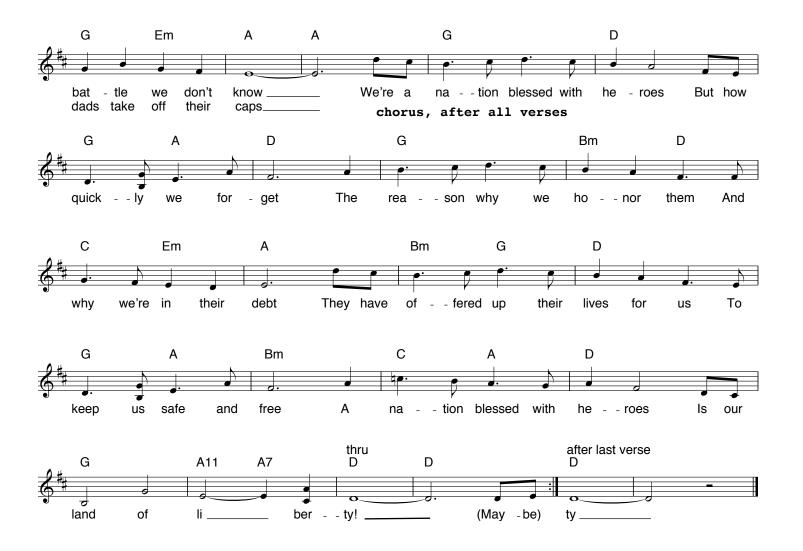
A NATION BLESSED WITH HEROES





AS YOU TRAVEL IN AMERICA / THRU HER CITIES AND HER TOWNS
FROM KEY WEST UP TO IDAHO / FROM MAINE TO PUGET SOUND
YOU'LL FIND IN PLACES BIG OR SMALL/ WHERE E'ER YOUR PATHWAY LEADS
A PARK WITH A PROUD MEMORIAL/ FULL OF NAMES THAT NO ONE READS

JUST A LONELY SLAB OF GRANITE/ OR A STATUE AGED AND GREEN OF A PATRIOT WHO GAVE HIS LIFE / IN DEFENSE OF FREEDOM'S DREAM AND WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE / IN SOME BATTLE LONG AGO BUT HIS NAME WE DON'T REMEMBER / AND THE BATTLE WE DON'T KNOW

WE'RE A NATION BLESSED WITH HEROES / BUT HOW QUICKLY WE FORGET THE REASON WHY WE HONOR THEM / AND WHY WE'RE IN THEIR DEBT THEY HAVE OFFERED UP THEIR LIVES FOR US / TO KEEP US SAFE AND FREE A NATION BLESSED WITH HEROES / IS OUR LAND OF LIBERTY!

MAYBE ONCE A YEAR THE CHILDREN COME / BEARING FLAGS IN TINY HANDS TO SING "GOD BLESS AMERICA" / AND TO LISTEN TO THE BANDS TO HEAR AN OLD MAN READ A SPEECH / HE CAN'T FINISH FOR THE TEARS ALWAYS SOMETHING ABOUT A SACRIFICE / AND THE CALL A YOUNG MAN HEARS

THERE ARE VETERANS IN THEIR UNIFORMS / PLACING FLOWERS NEAR A STONE WHILE A GOLD STAR MOTHER READS A PRAYER / THRU A RASPY MICROPHONE AND THE CHILDREN WATCH WITH PUZZLED EYES / AS THE HIGH SCHOOL BOY PLAYS TAPS AND THEY WONDER WHY THEIR MAMAS CRY / AND THEIR DADS TAKE OFF THEIR CAPS

WE SUFFERED ONE SEPTEMBER DAY / AT THE HANDS OF AN ENEMY
BUT WE KNOW THE JOB OUR HEROES DID / IN NEW YORK AND IN D C
AND OUT IN PENNSYLVANIA / ABOVE A FIELD THAT HAS NO NAME
DIED THOSE WHO HEARD A CALL FOR HELP / AND ANSWERED WHEN IT CAME

BUT THEY'RE HEROES TOO, OUR FRIENDS NEXT DOOR / WHO SERVE SO SELFLESSLY: THE TEACHER, THE COP, THE FIREMAN / THE NURSE, THE E M T
THE VOLUNTEER WHO OFFERS HELP / TO A HURT VOICE ON THE PHONE
THE PRIEST WHO HOLDS AN OLD MAN'S HAND / SO HE WILL NOT DIE ALONE

WE HAVE WATCHED ANOTHER DESERT WAR / WE WERE THERE BESIDE MARINES
WE HAVE LISTENED TO THE TALKING HEADS / TELL US WHAT THE FIGHTING MEANS
WE SIT THERE EATING SANDWICHES / WHILE OUR YOUNG MEN GO THRU HELL
THE REAL "REALITY TV" / WE CAN'T GRASP IT ALL THAT WELL:

THAT A HERO'S NOT JUST A STATUE / IN SOME CORNER OF THE PARK
IT'S A NEIGHBOR'S SON IN CAMOUFLAGE / DODGING BULLETS IN THE DARK
IT'S YOUR SISTER'S KID THEY'LL BE HONORING / WHEN THEY NAME THE NEW TOWN HALL
EVERY FALLEN HERO BREAKS YOUR HEART / BUT YOU'LL MISS HIM MOST OF ALL!

"AMVETS" VERSE

IN FLANDERS FIELDS AND NORMANDY / IWO JIMA, MIDWAY, PEARL
OUR HEROES CARRIED HIGH THE TORCH / TO LIGHT A DARKENED WORLD
TO WIN A PEACE THEY HOPED WOULD LAST / BUT ALAS, THEY HOPED IN VAIN:
AND WHEN WAR CAME TO KOREA / THEY WERE CALLED ON ONCE AGAIN

AND THEN THERE CAME THE SIXTIES / WHEN THE DAYS OF TRUST WERE GONE WHILE THE HIPPIES DANCED AT WOODSTOCK / MEN WERE MISSING IN KHE SANH THEN BACK FROM NAM OUR BRAVEST CAME / WITH HORROR IN THEIR EYES TO THE FLOWER CHILDREN'S "WELCOME HOME" / OF CURSES, HATE, AND LIES

"COVID 19" VERSE

BUT NOW IT'S 2020 / AND WE'RE IN ANOTHER WAR

AGAINST A VICIOUS ENEMY / FROM A HOSTILE ASIAN SHORE

WE HAVE MASKS UPON OUR FACES / AND CONFUSION IN OUR HEARTS

WE HOPE TO GOD TO WAKE UP SOON / WHEN REALITY RESTARTS

BUT WE HAVE HEROES IN THIS BATTLE / WHOSE COURAGE WILL NOT FAIL FROM RESEARCHERS IN THE BIO LABS / TO THE FOLKS DELIVERING MAIL THE NURSES IN THEIR SCRUBS AND MASKS / FIRST RESPONDERS TRIED AND TRUE THE PANTRY FOLKS WHO HAND OUT FOOD / ALL ESSENTIAL WORKERS TOO

YES, WE'RE A NATION BLESSED WITH HEROES TO HELP US STRUGGLE WITH OUR PAIN THE VIRUS WILL BE OVERCOME BUT THEIR EXAMPLE WILL REMAIN

LOVE ONE ANOTHER OUR SAVIOR SAID AND GOOD CITIZENS SHOW THE WAY WE'RE A NATION BLESSED WITH HEROES AND TOGETHER LET US PRAY: WE THANK YOU, GOD, FOR HEROES LET US HONOR THEM EVERY DAY!