

WE SAID GOODBYE
for Cpl Nick Xiarchos, USMC

WE SAID GOODBYE TO NICK TODAY:

**HUNDREDS, THOUSANDS, ON A HILL
WITH FAR-OFF THUNDER, SHOWERS OF RAIN
GREY SKIES ABOVE A WARM DAMP BREEZE**

**WE STOOD AND SPOKE IN MEASURED TONES
AGAINST THE FLAPPING OF THE FLAGS
AND SIGHING OF THE HEAVY TREES.**

WE SAID GOODBYE TO NICK TODAY.

**AND AS WE WATCHED, THEY LOWERED HIM DOWN
SO GENTLY IN HIS HEAVY BOX
THE BOX IN WHICH A HERO LAY.**

**YOU ALMOST COULD NOT HEAR THE SOUND
OF TAPS, AS THOUGH THE BUGLER
WERE MILES AND MILES AND MILES AWAY.**

WE SAID GOODBYE TO NICK TODAY.

**THIS HILLTOP CLOSEST TO THE STARS
ALL COLOR WHEN THE AUTUMN COMES
THEN SILENT IN THE WINTER WHITE**

**THEN GREEN IN SPRING AND SUMMER HEAT -
THE SEASONS TELL OF ENDLESS CHANGE;
TIME PASSES WITH THE DAY AND NIGHT.**

**THE CONSTANT THING IN ALL IS LOVE
AND COURAGE WITHOUT SELFISHNESS
AND FOLLOWING THE GOLDEN RULE.**

**THOSE WHO SLEEP HERE UNDERSTAND:
THE HEART MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN A HERO AND A FOOL.**

WE SAID GOODBYE TO NICK TODAY.

- JULY 2009