

# ***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 DE-FENSE 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

["AMVETS" VERSE - OPTIONAL]  
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 FALLING AT 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

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 PRIEST, THE FIREMAN  
THE COP, THE E M T  
THE VOLUNTEER WHO OFFERS HELP  
TO A HURT VOICE ON THE PHONE  
THE NURSE 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!

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