

**Brothers,  
I Don't Want You to Die ...**

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There was a time when our numbers  
shook the Earth of Vietnam and Thailand  
As Defenders of The Fortress!

Air Police . . . Security Police.  
Twenty Thousand Strong . . .  
Young warriors we were . . .  
*The Fortress was safe.*

For a decade, the enemy tried our perimeters, and fell  
upon our swords— and died. Our Eagles winged  
away and returned at their leisure.  
*The Fortress was safe.*

Our blood was shed . . . the cost of freedom—  
One Hundred Twelve dead . . . five-hundred wounded.  
*The Fortress was safe.*

Then we came Home,  
One by One.  
*The Fortress was safe.*  
We were not.

Our numbers grow fewer as decades fall away; *Gary,  
Newell, Jackie, The Old Cowboy* . . . too many to name  
who've joined those resting in peace, the otherside of  
The Wall. We die too young, too often, as lingering  
shadows in Agent Orange coffins.

We shall guard Heaven's Pearly Gates—with treasured  
memories of brothers who remain—we will miss and  
remember their faces once so young—now laughing old  
whiskers— these brothers we shared time with under  
Hell's sun.  
*Heaven is safe.*

Brothers, *I don't want you to die ...*  
Stay a while longer and Hold the Fortress  
Remember those who fell, and the Monuments we  
built so their names would be read a hundred years  
from now and learn of when our numbers shook Earth  
and Sky, and those who would cause us harm feared the  
Defenders of the Fortress, paid reaper's toll—  
*The Fortress was safe—*  
None ever lost.

## eMail Responses:

**Date Posted:** Sat, Jan 05 2008, 0:54:27 PST

**Author:** [Edwin Jack Smith 377th SPS 68-69 LM453](#)

**In reply to:** Don Poss 's message, "[A Poem In Remembrance of Brothers](#)" on Fri, Jan 04 2008, 23:37:06 PST

Don; You have said a mouth full with that poem. I hope everyone who visits the BB takes the time to read this piece of work and remember it. Jack The Old Cowboy

**Date Posted:** Sat, Jan 05 2008, 4:03:54 PST

**Author:** [Howard Yates](#)

**Subject:** 📧 Re: A Poem In Remembrance of Brothers

Don: That is one of the most beautifully worded, thought provoking and emotional poems I have ever read. You have expressed something we all think about and have done it masterfully. Thank you for sharing your time and talent. Howard

**Date Posted:** Sat, Jan 05 2008, 4:25:03 PST

**Author:** [Janet Matthews-Wise](#)

**Subject:** Re: A Poem In Remembrance of Brothers Very nice, very-very nice.

**Author:** [Chaplain Jim LM #442](#)

**Subject:** Re: A Poem In Remembrance of Brothers

Great poem brother Don. I seemed, however, to have problems reading it with the mist in my eyes.

**Author:** [Phil Carroll - LM #336](#)

**Subject:** Re: A Poem In Remembrance of Brothers

That's beautiful, Don, and very deeply meaningful. Thanks for sharing your limitless talents with us yet again. Phil

**Author:** [Greg Cain](#)

**Subject:** Re: A Poem In Remembrance of Brothers

Don: *So eloquent, so beautiful, so us.* Thank you. Greg Cain

**Author:** [Newell M. Swartz](#)

**Subject:** Re: A Poem In Remembrance of Brothers

Don, what an eloquent memorial tribute and as I read it a plea to our remaining brothers to continue the good fight and keep alive the memory of our brothers who have gone before us, many all too soon. *Lord look after us, one and all.* Newell