

November 2, 2023

**Re: Jackie R. Kays, *Poetry Recognition Award***

Qualification Guidelines for Presentation (TBD)

**VSPA Poetry Committee** (Composed of Poets?):

Don Poss (chair)  
Steve Gattis  
Steve Janke, Chaplain  
Terry Sasek  
(anyone else?)

**Gents,**

I have completed the VSPA Poetry List that will serve as a template for listing the current 580 poems, and soliloquies. List is Composed of five (5) sort options. Column Headers are live-links, as follows:

<a href="#">J.Kays Award</a>	<a href="#">POETRY TITLES (Sort)</a>	<a href="#">AUTHOR (Sort)</a>	<a href="#">BASE</a>	<a href="#">YEAR</a>	<a href="#">VSPA</a>
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**Each Column's Header**, when clicked on, will link to a Poetry Page sorted in that order. A VSPA link to the homepage is included.

If you are interested in helping select candidates for the *Jackie R. Kays Poetry Recognition Award*, email [Don Poss](#) and let him know.

I would like the "committee" to determine what is worthy of the *Jackie Kay's Award*. I realize such a requirement is likely to be nearly impossible to determine. We may end of following Justice Stewart's sage wisdom he proposed to determine "what porn is," per his 2007 quote:

*"I Know It When I See It."*

Perhaps we could even save-time by adapting something similar, whereas, when a committee member reads a poem posted, he can send the link to the poem to all committee members (I like this one already), and either unanimous agreement could be required, or three of four members— "Know it when they read it".

A poet's submitting volumes of poems should not be "the" qualifying point. Each poem stands on its own merit. For instance, when I first started the VSPA poem collection in 1996, Win Norwood, a civilian, wrote in with the fist poem submission, "I Was Not There." It was her only poem. I recall she had lost someone in the war. I have heard from her over the years, and she is "surprised" by variety of responses she still receives to her poem posted nearly 30 years at VSPA.

<a href="#">Not There Sea. by Win Norwood. 1996</a>	<b>Norwood, Win</b>	(Civilian)	1996
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Currently, the above abbreviated Header Column List's *first column-link* is live and sorted by Awarded members in Alpha order (or Date of Award; TBD), followed by the currently unanointed additional poems that *may not have yet been read*. The asterisk denotes an Author on that row was Awarded ("\*" is only a marker for now). I have randomly appended the "\*" to several Authors for the purpose of selection/sorting and demonstration of that Award-page.

Please reply whether or not you agree to join the *prestigious Jackie R. Kays Poetry Award Committee*, and if so, any suggestions you may have.

[Don Poss](#)