

## Somewhere in Between

*Back in The World*

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“22 Veterans commit suicide daily,” or so the article read.  
Would I this day be number 1, 21, or somewhere give or take?

I wonder how others chose their Out—  
OD,  
firearm,  
hanging,  
suicide-by-cop,  
Russian Roulette in a VA parking lot, or  
crossing-over into head on traffic?  
I’m sure I’ve missed a few.

Old .38 pressured my chin to lift—the cylinder spun and stopped—should I squeeze or jerk the  
trigger? *I know what old sarge would say.*

Hesitating, I know not why, staring at ghost-soldiers nursed long passed.  
All now is left—*do it right this time*— and say the Big Goodbye...before.

World, are you listening?  
*I say . . . so lon—*

*And gone. Twenty-two, and counting.  
Another PTSD day.*

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## *Veterans Suicide*

*Background*

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*Suicides during the Vietnam War were hard to understand. Today, the plague for veterans’  
killing themselves daily, continues.*

*Veterans in hospice lay fighting, clinging to life, last-seconds ticking away. How could they  
grasp a brother dying, willingly, and by his own hand?*

*1999 to 2010: Average daily veteran suicides were twenty-two (22). How could that happen  
— 8,030 a year—eighty-thousand plus that decade?*

*Another decade, another longer Wall, veteran suicides over a hundred fifty thousand.*

*Surreal—hard to grasp—what can be done to stop Veterans Suicide, a lingering growing  
macabre phenomenon?*

*Soon, Vietnam Veterans will all be gone. Wars afterward concluding and the race to combat  
veterans suicide languors on. And on.*