

**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 gates, and fell upon
our swords ... and died. Our Eagles flew away and
returned at their leisure.
The Fortress was safe.

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

Then we came Home.
The Fortress was safe.
We were not.

Our numbers grow fewer as decades fall away.
Our Names join those who rest in their graves.
We die too young and too often, as lingering
shadows in Agent orange coffins.

We too guard the Heaven's Pearly Gates—treasured
reminders of brothers still here—I miss and remember
them ... faces ever young ... the laughing old whiskers--I
shared time with under hell's sun.
Heaven is safe.

Brothers, I don't want you to die ...
Stay a while longer if you can, if only until relieved.
Remember with me those we have lost ...
The times when our numbers shook the Earth and those who
would cause us harm, feared us...*Defenders of the Fortress.*

The Fortress was safe ...
And 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