# I Sit Alone

© 2011 by <u>Jack Jobes, LM 542</u> Had a tough night a couple nights ago. Sat down and wrote the following.

I sit alone at night and cry In my mind I ask myself why Was it a TV show or sad plot? Or the evening news telling Of someone being shot?

Was it memories of long ago Of things that happened Only we brothers can know?

I've been told that the memories Will never go away. Somehow that's in a way OK.

We did our job and came back home. And now sit nights all alone.

Jack Jobes, Phan Rang AB, 67-68, Panther Flight

### **RESPECT & HONOR**

© 2011 by <u>Terry Sasek</u>

I have paid my Respects and Honors here To all those who have fought for freedom They wrote a blank check to our nation

The value of this check had no limits The writer had promised to pay the sum That would be determined at a later date

But with handing over this blank check The writer knew what the cost might be He was willing to pay any price needed

For you can't put a price on freedom To protect your nation and its people That is why the check was left blank

But I can tell you this personal fact From having been one of these people And faced all the dangers involved

We all were willing to pay any price That guaranteed the freedom you enjoy Up to and including our lives for you.

With great Respect & Honor to my fellow warriors, veterans and all who had paid for the freedom that is enjoyed today I salute and thank each of you for having signed the blank check to be paid to our nation and her citizens to protect the freedom they have always known while growing up here in America, especially those who had paid the ultimate cost for freedom with their own lives so you and your families would always live in freedom.

### An Agent Called Orange

© 2011 by Jack Smith 377th SPS 68-69 LM 453

Oh how we dread the dark of night When that wide door to the past is open Once again we return to that endless fight Only to awake in the morning light so lonesome

So much of our lives have been stolen Leaving us tired in pain so forlorn Cold and shaking from being locked in this dungeon Striking deep to the soul like a sharp thorn

Manhood robbed from us in our prime Sickness not foreseen from the past Taken by disease from the far away wartime Now plague us one and all till the last

As we slowly wither and fade away Soon to be lost from all thought Let us take the time to pray Hoping all we lost was not for naught

Edwin J. Smith The Old Cowboy Poet Sept. 23rd 2009

### AMERICA! SHE'S MY COUNTRY

© 2011 by <u>Terry Sasek</u>

She is despised by some and she's loved by others She has always aided other countries when needed Her young sons and daughters responded to the call And though many call her names! She's My Country

All throughout our history we have been a leader In industries that helped advance all countries With our research & developments in medicines She's improved the lives of many! She's My Country

It's strange how some nations we helped reject us now And in some cases they have become our enemies as well Using the technologies we gave them for war not peace Then they will talk trash about her! She's My Country

Well say what you want and tell me she's just evil But I'll tell you this fact there is no other lady Who will think of others needs before her own needs She's strong and she's very proud! She's My Country

Terry Sasek - Always A Warrior - all rights reserved.

**Advance Combat Training:** Do you remember they had a simulated air base with posts and wire? Did anyone get attacked on their training nights or have a standoff?

AZR: A Boy Goes Off To War © 2011 by <u>Chaplain Steve</u>

In 1970 boys were training how to Kill Crawling under wire and over Hill. Weapons here, weapons There. Learning of weapons Everywhere

Somewhere the boy got left Behind And are just snapshots of the Mind. His voice still calls out so I turn and Stare To look for the boy but he's never There.

I miss that boy that left so long Ago. He left without ever saying Goodbye.

### **Orphan's Home**

Nha Trang Orphanage © 2011 by <u>Chaplain Steve</u>

There was a home for orphans up the road So we took supplies there by truck load. There is a war so we take our gun. (actually weapon) But somehow we thought it could still be fun. The ride was nice and the view was grand. It was really great to get away from the sand. So many children each one here alone. So many children here who do not have a home. They loved to be held and flocked to you by the bunch. So many crowded us we forgot about lunch. One large room had just infants so tiny and small, They filled up the room and lined up the hall. After some chores it was back in the truck, And home for dinner with just a little luck. The VC hit that orphanage later that year. I never found out what happened to all the children dear.

(We were never told and we never asked.)

Just something that has been running around in my head for a few weeks. It came out this morning at 0400 as I was making the 1st of many pots of coffee for the day. This poem might be the reason I have had some long sleepless nights. Sometimes the words build and it takes some time for them to form and jump on the paper. Jack

#### Blame it on the Wind

© 2011 by Jack Smith 377th SPS 68-69 LM 453

It's here to torment me another sleepless night Those same old dark haunting memories Shadows that never come into the light Stretching my minds boundaries

Carried back to a time when sleep evaded me That place where fear was always present Like yesterday its clear for me to see Back to Vietnam ever now so frequent

Here in the dark I sat wondering Is this night ever going to end Why must I endure this ailing Have I committed some great sin

Walking this lonely house still on guard Not knowing what I hear in the dark So many like me returned scarred Still listening for that K-9's bark

That wind that blows forever Filling my mind with pain Why do I let it build and fester Knowing that it can drive a man insane

The sun shows across the east Lighting up the day as the night resends That sickening fear and pain is released Another night gone and again I blame it on the wind

Edwin J. Smith The Old Cowboy Poet Mar 14th 2011

#### The 377th SPS

© 2011 by <u>Jack Smith 377th SPS 68-69 LM 453</u> ...in honor my 377th Brothers. Jack the Old Cowboy

We are the 377th Security Police Born into war and battle proven Willing to fight never to cease Brave young and courageous Airman

Standing our post and always on guard Never forgetting who or what we are Repelling all the enemies charges In that land of Vietnam so far

Our home became Tan Son Nhut Not a place where we wanted to be Hot and rainy a horrible climate With filthy places like 100P alley

When the time for battle reared its head We turned to steel hard as granite After Tet of 68 we counted our dead Bloody troops who ran the gauntlet

After all the years that have passed We come together once more Sharing all the memories we have amassed Honoring those here and the ones gone before

Edwin J. Smith The Old Cowboy Poet April 18th 2011 Gents: A Memorial Day poem. A little dark, but still very true to many.

# **Dappled Shadows of Why**

© 2011 by Don Poss

The 'Why', is like scurrying bruised clouds of combat whose dappled shadows in flight exploit valleys and folds of earth, embracing every blade of grass ... every rock ... everything.

A frightful shadow that takes but does not give, and wounds a man (did you hear his cry?) or slays another (utterly ... silently),

and you turn to laugh with him at the silver-lining having randomly skirted bunkers, divided fighting-holes and drawn so near ...

startled to find him slain and you happily (too happily) alive.

Why me? Why am I still here? Why did this mortar arc its way merrily-twisting hither, swirling upon the axis of life, nudged left, right, up or down ever so gently by winds-aloft ...

then tugged by gravities' indifferent mass, flicked by fickled fingers of toying gods ... only to slash the earth with shrapnel gleefully flying yet heartless as to the where, what,

or even if it smites flesh. Yet, he is dead ... the sandbags still bleeding rivulets of indifferent soil – and dappled shadows of 'Why'

caring not this night you will tread the first-step of decades seeking the answer to 'Why'.

Clouds passed again, often and without prediction, favoritism or fate, playing games of inequality and chance, fully shorn of joy or sadness, blasphemous and devoid of all emotion while

skipping a tuneless cleansing-purging dance ... or not.

I saw the inviolate pattern forming ...

They died ... I didn't. They were wounded ... I wasn't. They have Agent Orange ... I don't. They are broken ... I am not. They are resolute in manly strength ... I try to be. They are coping ... as am I, mostly. They do not sleep the sleep of innocence ... nor do I.

I'm all used up from the Why; dappled shadows have passed me by.

### THE BAGPIPER

© 2011 by Terry Sasek BT 68-69 LM-687

The bagpiper's call echoes out across the field A tribute played during this last final moment We now lay to rest this man that we must yield Amazing Grace was beautiful they would comment

There in the far distance he stands at attention No one attending knows who this bagpiper might be But he played for all there a stirring rendition With his sharp uniform in its own Scottish colors

God has touched this man's heart and he believes He came to pay his last respects and honor today For this warrior he plays a tune before he leaves They'd both been in Vietnam and held the VC at bay

We all were warriors who'd served time in that war Some had volunteered to go they had served as cops Defending bases there away from their homes so far They defended everyone and they were all crack shots

I write this poem to honor my friend and a brave man He survived our war and he came home to become a cop His town was lucky to get this warrior who never ran He was a cop in both war & peace he was always on top

He's also a poet here and helped talk me into writing He's my friend and a brother Air Force augmentee cop His knowledge is so vast and he's always enlightening He is Howard Yates and he's called "The Kilted Cop".

#### **Memorial Day**

© 2011 by Jack Smith 377th SPS 68-69 LM 453

Flags of red white and blue flutter in the wind Placed upon the resting place of valiant military men

These flags gently erected by caring hands For those lost in wars at home and in foreign lands

From our largest cities to the smallest town Proud but humble veterans gather around

Honoring those that never came home Tending through the years so they are not alone

There on bright sun lit days or mornings of frost Veterans taking care of comrades lost

Never asking for anything in return Just hoping that the young watch and learn

So when we are finally laid to rest New veterans with step up and do their best

Showing as we have the honor deserved For this lands freedom that we preserved

Edwin J. Smith The Old Cowboy Poet May 22nd 2009

### **ONLY YOU CAN DEAL WITH YOUR LOSS**

© 2011 by Terry Sasek BT 68-69 LM-687

In life we all will face the loss of a loved one Whether they are young and died before their time Or whether they were very old and had a full life

Each person will face it at one time or another As we all die sometime that is how life works We never want to face that fact but it is true

And when we do have to deal with it someday We will have to deal with it in our own way No one can tell you how you should handle it

Although some will try to offer words of advice They'll say things like be brave or to be strong They are better off now they feel no more pain

While these all might be true statements of fact The loved ones left behind don't want to hear it They are the only ones who know how they feel

Although friends and relatives try to help Only the person who suffered the loss knows The deep pain left in their heart and soul.

#### AT ONE TIME I WAS A REALLY GOOD DANCER

© 2011 by Terry Sasek BT 68-69 LM-687

In my high school years I was an extremely shy person I found it hard to compete with those sarcastic jocks That seemed to like nothing more than to embarrass us.

*Us* being the regular guys who didn't feel those needs The needs to slam guys like us into the ground for fun Trying to impress the popular girls or some cheerleader

They thought because we didn't act like a Neanderthal That we could not say a word at all to any of the girls They were like cavemen laying claim to any girl in sight

If you crossed their perceived territory God help you They didn't think any girl needed a guy with manners Who respected the fact that she was not to be mauled

How or why would they ever think of talking to one of us We weren't muscle bound thugs who could crush a pop can No we couldn't do that trick of slamming it into your head

But we did have many things that a young lady would like We were smart and articulate and knew how to treat a lady And then too some of us were damn good dancers in school

Dancing helped me get over my shyness and I was a gentleman The jocks would make fun of us if we opened doors for the girls It seemed there was nothing in those heads except for muscles

After entering the Air Force I had almost 8 months of training And at the end of the week we would go to the USO dance in town Several of us who were damn good dancers were getting popular

They would hold these dance contest at the USO club in Rantoul So each weekend we would go and compete for some nice prizes When they offered dinner for two prizes everyone wanted to win

I was still a really good dancer when I got out of the Air Force And one of the things that attracted my wife to me was my dancing Now years later my legs don't work so well even for a slow dance My time in Vietnam has created many health problems in my life now And though I am most grateful for having survived that time there I think one of the things I miss most from my youth is the dancing

To have been so in tune with your partner and to achieve perfection It was a passion I know now that I'll never again have in my lifetime To see me now you'd never guess I use to be a damn good dancer once.

#### **His Last Guardmount**

© 2011 by Jackie R. Kays

his-last-guardmount-jackie-kays-2011

In the fog of time, he now struggle to clear his aging mind. Memories that flicker and fade of by gone days, images, faces, name of jungle places, that have become scattered by the winds of time, and seems to no longer matter or even rhyme.

As his aging memory fades, yesterday is long gone and tomorrow quickly becomes yesterday's skeleton; he realize that each new day is a gift from God.

He's nearing his eighties and the wars he fought and the faces of the young men he once knew are fading into the abyss of obscurity.

But, he still looks at the discolored pictures, through the tears of his aging eyes as he shows his great grandson and says; "Son, that me...that me, back in Korea and Vietnam...you see!"

Few remember and fewer yet care about wars long past, but he still post Old Glory outside of his home every morning as his first daily task.

He still stands for the playing of the National Anthem and proudly salutes the passing of the Red, White and Blue.

He is still a solider and will always be until the day he stands that last guard out and taps is played in his honor, well deserved and long overdue. This poem was suggested by Dennis Evans. He asked me this morning for something on the upbeat side. Hope you like it Dennis and all my brothers. Jack

# The Lighter Side Of Nam

© 2011 by Jack Smith 377th SPS 68-69 LM 453

Do you recall all those days when everything was right? Hanging in the compound with all the other Sky Cops Those hot but beautiful days with skies so bright Just living in your underwear and flip-flops

Those late nights with a cold Bud and old Jimmy Beam Playing or just watching those big stake poker games Talking about your car back home with the engine so mean Making up lies and bragging about all the dames

Marking off the days on that short timer's sheet How many different naked women were on those? That last week when it was almost complete Dreaming about home and that thirty furlough

That last day when you said your goodbyes Looking at faces that wish they were you. Leaving your new found brothers with tears in your eyes On that freedom bird in the skies so blue

Yes there were some good time to recall We can all remember some of the good Proud of what we did and standing tall We became men putting away our boyhood

Edwin J. Smith The Old Cowboy Poet May 13th 2011

#### We Were Called The Augmentees

© 2011 by Terry Sasek BT 68-69 LM-687

We were mechanics and office clerks Supply guys and just plain old cooks Just doing our duties we had no perks Like a chess game we were the rooks

We would move from position to position Filling in the line to help our brothers Each time a new face and a new situation We were a group of guys unlike any others

The combat cops knew they could count on us And they had always trusted us to cover them We'd heard warnings of attacks at guard mount They told us to hold your ground brave airmen

We had joined from all over our own homeland So many young faces from so many backgrounds We were defending this line drawn in the sand Against attacking VC and their mortar rounds

Manning our defensive bunkers some in a tower Patrolling our remote base & watching the wire Our machine gun was loaded she was our power Lugging her ammo cans makes you quickly tire

Everyone is ready and vigilant for those sounds Scanning the terrain on this pitch black night Listening for the thump of fired mortar rounds And praying we'd all live to see mornings light

It seemed like an eternity till we saw the sun Another night had come and gone with my brothers Now I thought of my hometown and summers of fun But now we'll get some chow and write our mother's

Some will have to go work their daytime positions They won't be able to go get some well-earned rest Some worked double shifts during certain situations I'm proud that I served with them they were the best

#### **GOD BLESS OUR BETTER HALVES**

© 2011 by <u>Terry Sasek</u>

I want to say thanks and give recognition To a very special group of dedicated women Who for years have been serving so bravely

Though they were not on any battlefields They know each step that was taken by us They have heard it all one way or another

We seldom talked of things that haunt us Yet they seem to know of things unspoken Sometimes we are surprised by this fact

It's because of things said in our sleep And they were there each step of the way As we had fought a battle or were shelled

How hard it must have been to bear witness To see their men in their sleep crying out For buddies so long ago killed or wounded

To hear things that were never to be spoken of Yet they too now carry this heavy burden inside And during our restless sleep they held us tight

Wishing they could rid us of those damn nightmares That have continued to torture us still to this day They have been through more than we will ever know

Even those of us who say I've never dreamed at all Of those past events that took place in your life Then just take a long hard look at your better half

In her eyes you'll see she has been there each time too And she has lived through each nightmare along with you For they have taken each painstaking step with you too

As you start your day today be ever so thankful always We are who we are today because of these angels of mercy Because they have been right there every step of the way. God bless our wives, or for those not married that very special lady, whose always been there in your life over the past forty years and who has always stood by you in good times and also during those bad times that have troubled many of us who have those things and memories that we still deal with in our lives or those nightmares that still haunt many of us from the past. If not for these women who are our own angels of mercy and who have always been there for us, who's to say how many more of us might not have still been here today. I'm sure God has a special place in heaven for our angels for having been our better halves.

### PTSD

© 2011 by Jack Smith 377th SPS 68-69

Sixty years ago we came home from a World at war Facing problems never dreamed of before Pain numbed by morphine and alcohol People looking the other way not caring at all

Fifty years ago we came home from the Korea war Facing problems never dreamed before Fingers hands feet lost to the freezing cold You will get over it we were all told

Forty years ago we came home from the Vietnam war Facing problems never dreamed before Shattered young dreams many dulled by drugs Forgotten so many years just swept under the rug

Today we come home from the Iraq and Afghanistan war Facing problems never dreamed before Things have changed over the long years But the pain is still there and can't be hid by our tears

Over all the years we have spent in war Facing problems never dreamed before May God bless all of us that cannot forget Holding our hand as we seek a peaceful sunset

Edwin J. Smith The Old Cowboy Poet May 5th 2011

# Lonely Mother's Day

© 2011 by Jack Smith 377th SPSD 68-69 LM 453

I think so lovingly when Mother's day is here. Wishing some way we could be near. Remembering this special day each year. And knowing you are with the Lord Mother dear. Just that thought a son could wish for no more. Because it's with angels of pure you now soar. You made my life so rich though we were poor. Again we will meet when God opens his door. I shall again see your face, hold your hand. In God's high and wonderful heavenly land.

Edwin J. Smith The Old Cowboy Poet

## Old Ben, the Ugly, Bearded Geek!

© 2011 by <u>Jackie R. Kays</u> old-ben-the-ugly-beared-geek-jackie-kays-2011

Once there was a bad guy named, Ben Laden He masterminded a horrifying, evil deed, that will never be forgotten!

He ran and tried to hid, but time was not on his side. They hunted here and they hunted there, but when he least expected it, a seal swam by, and shot old Ben between his beady eyes.

He sank to the bottom of the drink, food for fish, no longer will we have to put up with this tall, ugly, bearded geek! My oldest son John posted and wrote this poem on Facebook. I wanted to share it here.

# John Janke

© 2011 by (my son the poet) Chaplain Steve

Now I lay me down to sleep... One less terrorist this world does keep.. With all my heart I give my thanks.. To those in uniform regardless of rank.. You serve our country and serve it well.. With humble hearts your stories tell.. So as I rest my weary eyes.. While freedom rings our flag still flies.. You give your all, do what you must... With God we live and in God we trust....Amen

#### The Patriot

© 2011 by Howard Yates

The fear of battle churns inside As now I gaze upon the tide Of red with shouldered muskets gleaming, From the distant hills they're streaming.

Line by line they march unscathed For neither side has loosed their fray And all the while generals muse O'er each the other's gallant moves.

Now standing firm to hold this ground, While cannon shots burst all around, I wait amid this sea of blue, And pray my aim is sure and true.

With sons and neighbors side by side We mean to turn this crimson tide And send our message loud and clear To George, that all his house may hear.

The throne of Britain may be yours From English cliffs to Scottish moors And you may o'er the empire reign But our resolve shall never wane.

We'll stand upon this sovereign ground In one accord against the crown And we shall from this moment be A nation born, forever free.

Howard Garrison Yates

# What I See

© 2008 by <u>Ramps</u>

Alone, here I sit on the Fourth of July Watching rockets as they burst in the sky I wonder what others who are watching may see A flash in the sky, or memories like me?

I see the young children as they watch with delight And scream with joy as the rockets take flight Then I recall screams of another sort With horror and fear of the cannon's report

It was cold, bitter cold, in Valley Forge But the heat was like hell on Tarawa's shore I froze at the Chosen with my fellow Marines As many more died with their shattered dreams

On D-Day, from Sky-trains we jumped into hell With blood purchased freedom by each man who fell And the bombers and crews who fell from the sky Gave their full measure for Liberty's cry!

We were just kids in the jungles of 'Nam We learned fast of "Sir Charles" and the dread Viet Cong A Security Policeman, I stood guard all alone Many nights filled with fear that cut to the bone

Now I hear the "swish" and the "pop" of the flare And my eyes look intently for the enemy there An' while others behold the bright sights with glee I know they're not looking at the same things I see

Randy "Ramps" Stutler

# A Time to Remember...

© 2011 by Jackie R. Kays

a-time-to-remember-jackie-kays-2011

As we celebrate our countries 235 years in existence, it's a time to remember, who we are and how this great nation got its beginning and give thanks to those fifty six brave men who signed the declaration of Independence giving us our freedom.

### A time...

To remember the men and women in the military, who served over the years to maintain our freedom and to the fallen heroes, who stood tall and gave their all for this freedom!

# A time...

To remember those brave young men and women now serving to keep our freedom true.

A time... To celebrate and give thanks for our precious freedom!

A Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July to all!

Jackie *"I am forever honored for I have marched with heroes!" (jk)* 

#### If I could have Stood in that Crowd

© 2010 by Jack Smith 377th SPS 68-69 LM 453

If I could have stood in that crowd With Washington, Franklin, Jefferson and all With a chest swelled so proud Knowing that England had taken the fall

To see these men of honor lay the foundation Showing the world that free men can overcome And build the greatest of all nations Where freedom will always be sung

To have been there that July 4th 1776 To share in the thrill of freedom Standing there in that great mix Of American's so wholesome

So 234 years later I stand now With as much pride as they all showed As our flag passes my head I will bow Thanking God for the freedoms they bestowed

Edwin J. Smith The Old Cowboy Poet

# REMEMBERING MY DAD ON FATHER'S DAY © 2011 by <u>Terry Sasek BT 68-69 LM-687</u>

Sunday June 19th 2011 will be Father's Day once more It is a joyous time for me celebrating with my family My beautiful wife, our two loving kids and their kids

And as we all look back on our lives over the years I'm very proud and happy to have been blessed richly With my children's accomplishments and their successes

I'm extremely proud of them and their own families too And as we gather and remember past events that we faced I can both laugh and sometimes cry as well as we recall

And though we will pamper and spoil our new granddaughter I will still have this big empty void as my Dad is gone It's hard to really believe that 21 years have passed by

And though I will celebrate with my own children Sunday I can't help but to reflect back on this great man too For I still miss him greatly to this day 21 years later

It was he with whom I had always confided my worries & fears As I left to become a warrior for this great nation of ours He told me to write to him at his work about any bad stuff

Just write cheery letters and notes to your mom at home He didn't want her to worry any more than she was already So the bad times and things were only shared with my old man

He had enough to worry about already so I rarely wrote of it I knew he worried about me while I was in that terrible war He was the only one that seemed to understand why I'd changed

So this Sunday as we gather once more for Father's Day here I will thank God above for my wife, my kids and my grandkids And I'll take pride in the fact that they all turned out great

But I'll look skyward too and remember the past and my own Dad Thankful for all he taught me and those private talks we shared And I can only hope that he knows how much I still love him so.

### STEALING IS MUCH EASIER THAN WORKING FOR IT

© 2011 by Terry Sasek BT 68-69 LM-687

It seems to me that we have a lost generation That have no regard for other people or things Stealing is much easier than working for it

We ordered a brand new solar powered umbrella The kind that has both colored and plain lights They're LED type lights for our patio table set

It had arrived this past Friday but we were busy So we set it up Sunday morning to let it charge Sunday night we sat out back watching the lights

When it is set on plain clear lights it is bright But when it is set on multi-color it changes colors And it will display several different illuminations

It was windy on Sunday night so we had closed it up There was an attached Velcro strap that secures it Keeping the wind from getting under the umbrella

I had told my wife how it would shade us from the sun It was a very nice early gift for Father's Day on Sunday I knew everyone would really like it's solar lighting

But now we will never know as it was stolen yesterday My home has a six foot tall privacy fence around it And our gate was secured with a titanium master lock

When we arrived home from shopping and having lunch I unlocked the gate and as we carried in groceries We saw that our new solar powered umbrella was gone

Just our beautiful patio set sat there in the sun Which begged the question where in the hell is it Taken in broad daylight on a very busy main road

We live across from the township's fire department They usually sit out front on the bright sunny days Yet none of them saw anyone anywhere near our home So whoever it was had to come through the backyard Through my neighbor's yard and climbed over my fence It was a very heavy duty and a very heavy umbrella

Whoever it was must have seen the lights Sunday night, and returned yesterday after we had left to steal it. So I guess stealing is much easier than working for it.

# Orphans Home 1971 © 2011 by <u>Chaplain Steve</u>

There was a home for orphans up the road So we took supplies there by truck load. There is a war so we take our gun. But somehow we thought it could still be fun. The ride was nice and the view was grand. It was really great to get away from the sand. So many children each one here alone. So many children here who do not have a home.

They loved to be held and flocked to you by the bunch. So many crowded us we forgot about lunch. One large room had just infants so tiny and small, They filled up the room and lined up the hall. After some chores it was back in the truck, And home for dinner with just a little luck. The VC hit that orphanage later that year. I never found out what happened to all the children dear.

(We were never told and we never asked.)

# MAY GOD BLESS THE PEACEKEEPERS OF OUR WORLD © 2011 by <u>Terry Sasek BT 68-69 LM-687</u>

Dedicated to Ian Yates and all of the American Warriors who have answered the call to defend our nation and other nations in their most darkest hours. Thank God our nation has always had the brave young men and women who were willing to risk their lives so that we could live our lives in peace.

We'll always be a strong nation unless we forget who gave us the freedom and safety we have today, it came from those who willing faced the dangers and the hardships of war and who have bought & paid for your own freedom many times with their own blood, sweat, tears and their lives by many courageous acts of selflessness by these young people who put the lives of others before themselves as they serve our nation and our citizens.

These sacrifices they have made for others will never be taken for granted or forgotten by their fellow warriors and brothers in arms, and those of us who are veterans and have faced those same dangers as they when we took our turn defending this great nation of ours. I hope our citizens never forgets who it is that pays for their own freedom and rights that they and their families all enjoy each day.

May the Good Lord Bless And Protect all those now serving our nation as they protect all of us and our freedoms as they face many dangers, and let us never forget those who went to the far ends of the earth before them who fought and died to preserve your safety and freedom many who are still suffering still today from wounds and illnesses they received while they protected and defended America's families.

# Just Fade Away © 2011 by <u>Jackie R. Kays</u>

just-fade-away-jackie-kays-2011

Today we gather here to lay to rest one of our own, an old airman that's done his very best! He served and fought in that unpopular jungle war, over forty years ago. Few remember, but he will be honored by those who still care. Time marches on, new wars rage on, and new heroes are born. But the old airman knows, that "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." He will always be honored, for he has marched with heroes, from the jungle wars of yesterday!

Jackie R. Kays DaNang-65 © 2011

### FRIENDSHIP

© 2011 by Terry Sasek BT 68-69 LM-687

It is the most priceless thing you can have But no amount of money or gold can buy this Everyone wants it, everyone needs to have it

We could not get through a day without this Many times people have it, but mistreat it They'll assume that it will always be there

When you are upset you'll use it for hours But if the roles were reversed then I wonder How many others would use this special gift

Life's too short, so I can't even imagine how We could ever get through each day without it This most priceless gift that we call Friendship

Terry Sasek BT 68-69

# IS IT REALLY JUST MY OWN PARANOIA? I DON'T THINK SO! © 2011 by <u>Terry Sasek BT 68-69 LM-687</u>

There are waves of emotions that still rush in Assaulting my senses with memories from the past Catching me off guard I struggle to control them

After forty two years you'd think they'd fade away These overpowering moments of my own self-doubts Flashing back to the days and long nights of fear

No matter how aware one is of these current times And you may tell yourself everything will be fine In the back of your mind plays scenes from the past

They remind me to always stay vigilant and alert The world is a dangerous place with great evils Just waiting for any chance to strike out at us

You just need to look back to 9/11 to know this fact And some may tell me it's just my own paranoid fears But with all that has happen can you just ignore it?

My own emotions go through many ups and downs still From all that I've been through don't I have that right I have seen the many things that evil can do to others

Though I have lived now some forty two years since then I still deal with my emotions from that time in my life It's not being paranoid to be ever watchful these days

For it is when you are least expecting it in your life That those who had plotted, planned and remained patient Will suddenly strike out at us with a horrible vengeance.

## Our Flag! © 2011 by <u>Jackie R. Kays</u>

our-flag-jackie-kays-2011

Old Glory, Stars and Stripes, the Red, White and Blue! This is the flag of the greatest Nation in the world,

this is OUR flag, to be cherished, loved, and respected by all, no matter where she may fly!

The defenders of OUR flag have paid a valiant price to keep Old Glory waving and providing the freedoms that we so willingly take for granted.

Now foreign invaders misuse the freedom, which she provides, by, openly and reprehensible desecrating OUR flag, OUR honor, and OUR way of life, under the misguided interpretation of the laws of OUR constitution!

The law and the interpretation of that law was created by man, and can be changed. The only law that is written in stone was created by the hand of God!

What has happened to ... "Don't tread on me!" "The Stars and Stripes forever!"

No longer should we tolerate deliberate and intentional, vile acts of desecration of OUR Nation's most sacred symbol! These acts of hatred disdain and total disrespect for the symbol of OUR nation is incomprehensible and intolerable!

As service men and women, this is the flag that WE pledged our allegiance to uphold, protect and respect!

Notify your congress Representative today, and tell him or her that you want the interpretation of the law changed.

No longer should we tolerate deliberate, intentional and unspeakable acts of desecration of OUR Nation's most sacred symbol. This is not happening it Tehran, it's happening here in OUR own country! So I ask...no, I plead with you, please act today to help save OUR flag from further desecration!

No, I'm not a book burner or a Nazi, I' m just an old soldier that loves his country and the flag it represents, as I'm sure each of you do as well!

Jackie R. Kays "I am forever honored, for I have marched with heroes!" (jk)

# PTSD: I Thought I was Stronger than That © 2011 by Don Poss

I thought I was stronger than that. I thought I could put it in a box. I thought I didn't need anyone.

I thought no one understood.

I thought I could handle it.

I thought no one cared.

I thought it would go away.

I thought I could forget.

I thought I could forgive.

I thought I wouldn't be missed.

I thought I couldn't stand it anymore.

I thought I was alone.

I thought about asking for help.

I thought they would think me weak.

I thought I would say goodbye.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, with friendship and counseling can be overcome. Like the most severe physical wound, it is a wound deeper than heartfelt and can consume the soul.

You are strong but not invincible. You can put it in a box ... for a time. You may not need anyone, but we need you. You can meet hundreds who understand. You can handle it ... let us help. You know we care ... we've been there. You know it will never go away ... we can face it together. You can forgive but you needn't forget. You can forgive but you needn't forget. You still miss those who fell ... as do we. You can stand with us. You can stand with us. You can ask us at any hour for as long as we live. You can ask us at any hour for as long as we live. You are not weak ... just human ... and have seen what mankind was not meant to see. You can say 'I need to talk' and we will say, 'Welcome Home'.

We will make it, together.

## Response to Don's post on PSTD (I'm telling it like it is!)

2011, by Jackie R. Kays

telling-it-like-it-is-jackie-kays-2011

Hi Don, I could write a book on this subject! For over forty-five years, I have wrestled my demons in...sleepless nights, nightmares, night-sweats, anger, depression, and the hold damn gamete!

I could not, before or now, rationally discuss this subject with anyone, without becoming emotional and very angry!

I have often wanted to visit the "Wall", but knew I could not bear the sight of the names of young men that I personally knew in Nam.

I have been an outpatient at the VA hospital since 1966, during that time, I never mentioned this subject to the doctors, or anyone else, outside of my immediately family, who were and are very familiar with my demons.

You see...I missed a damn good chance of becoming a "KIA" while I was there. That experience, left me with an everlasting feeling that I have been living on borrowed time! The only reason that I mention this matter now... is because, after reading Don's post in regards to this subject, I suddenly realized that I am a member of an elite organization (VSPA) of men, who have been there and done that...and hopefully will understand where I'm coming from! I am sure, that I am not alone in this nightly drama!

Thanks Don!

Jackie R. Kays SSGT USAF (Med. Ret.) Da Nang 1965

## JUST A LITTLE MORE TIME LORD

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Life can be a long and challenging journey for most We are faced with many situations as we go through it Most things are very good experiences but some are not

We grow up and we go to school to learn many new things We learn of the past, the present and look to the future Hoping that we can contribute to a better way of life

Some will go on to college, some will go straight to work Then still some will enlist to defend our nation & citizens keeping us all safe so we can enjoy the freedom they give

At times their lives are cut short so that others may live Some have been wounded and will spend their lives healing But there are others who have been given a death sentence

They were exposed to deadly toxins & chemicals unknowingly Years later the exposure causes a terminal future for them With his family to care for they will now face losing him

This veteran knows what his outcome will be and he faces it With the same courage that he showed fighting for freedom He fights his biggest battle with little hope of survival

He does not blame anyone for his fate for it was his choice He did what he could to save others while he defended freedom He doesn't ask for any ones pity nor for any special favors

He only prays for just a little more time lord for his family Just let me have one more CHRISTMAS with us all together lord Let me get everything in order before I have to leave for good.

#### The Year of the Monkey

© 2011 by Jackie R. Kays

the-year-of-the-monkey-jackie-kays-2011

"Do you remember the kid down the street... I can't remember his name, but what a shame!"

When everything was shinny and new in his young life, the aroma of spring flowers, warm breezes, clear blue skies and multicolored butterfly in-flight; all was well, with little or no strife.

Four was he, in a wonderland so big and wide, "What is this?" "What is that?" What and why, he asked, repeatedly, for only four was he!

Time passed, and seven he quickly became! Stick horses, cowboy hat, and pearl handled cap guns, fireflies in a mason-jar and eating tootsie rolls and watching the bright stars.

Sand through the hourglass and ten was he! Summertime, climbing trees, riding his bike down Fifth street, eating wormy mulberries from the old mulberry tree. Life was free and so was he!

Turn around, and fifteen he became. Baseball, fishing pole, swimming holes, Boy scouts, and the discovery that all the ugly little girls had magically turned pretty!

Time fluttered on, and now seventeen was nearly gone. Football games, high school queens, late night movies and stolen kisses at the drive-in, and that's how his time had passed, without a serious thought or a single sin.

In the blink of the eye and twenty-one was he! Now where were the butterflies in-flight, the summer breeze and the old mulberry trees and his young future, so bright? Gone forever by an AK round, on a dark monsoon night, in a jungle firefight, during the year of the monkey... Nineteen-sixty-nine!

"What was his name... Ah! *I can't remember*!

Jackie R. Kays

### **REMINISCING ON THE PAST**

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Sometimes we will look back on the past Reminiscing on things we had faced then The dangers from the rockets and mortars

It was always there the threat of death As young warriors we took it in stride We prayed each night that we'd survive

Most days were boring and nights scary Waiting for the first rounds to hit us We would quickly react to this threat

We were there to protect those serving And each of us protected each other too All for one and one for all was our motto

No matter what was thrown at any of us We never thought of backing down at all If we had to we'd have died for each other

Looking back after so many years that's past I am very proud that I had served my country And proud to have served with such brave men.

## TAKING CARE OF OUR BROTHERS WITH WHOM WE SERVED

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As very young men we chose to serve our nation We were taught many lessons as we were trained We learned of traditions, honor and to respect

We learned the lessons that would change us all From civilians of many backgrounds and customs We became part of the team defending our nation

We also learned to trust and rely on each other To care for each other and to help our brothers And to never leave anyone behind in any battles

We were defending our nation and our way of life We not only served the cause but for each other You knew that you could count on your brothers

Now years after our own war had ended for us Many of us still have lingering issues we face Whether it's nightmares & PTSD or from chemicals

We're now 40 plus years past those days and nights Those lessons we learned are still part of us all We still care deeply and "WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN".

## THE WONDERS OF FALL

© 2011 by Terry Sasek BT 68-69 LM-687

Oh the wonders of another fall Such beautiful colors displayed The gusting winds that now blow Scattering multi-colored leaves

Enjoy watching our neighborhood Fathers, mothers & little kids Raking up leaves in high piles As giggling kids jump into them

The trips we take to get apples Having cider and the warm donuts Getting fresh corn on the cob Watching all the young families

In days long past on Saturday's Remembering all the many aromas Smells of burning leaves gathered Some smells were of fall barbecues

They won't let us burn leaves now But there's still college football And the sounds of crowds cheering The marching band stirring up all

Yes fall is grand and I do love it The change of seasons is beautiful Crisp breezes aid leaves take flight They've completed their own season. The following is in accordance with Don Poss' Bulletin Board "Open Letter" post:

## **Denied Valor**

© 2011 by Jackie R. Kays

denied-valor-jackie-kays-2011

Who are you, who come today with the tenacity to deny honor to those who so valiantly served on that infamous day of Nine Eleven? Heroic Firefighters, Police officers, Emergency response personnel, Religious Leaders and civilian volunteers.

"NOT INVITED ...!"

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, How quickly you have forgotten...

Remember this Mayor?

9-11...The Devil Himself First disbelief, then instant reality as the indestructible, gray mountain of steel, concrete and glass began to shiver, tremble, sway and violently shake, just before it crumbled from its cloud covered steeple to the cement jungle far below.

Death was everywhere to behold. From the highest windows they leaped. In the stairwells, they huddled without hope to reap.

The winged gargoyles from hell had been unleashed. From across the sea they had come, with hatred and a wish of death, they drew with every evil breath.

They proclaimed a righteous cause, but humanity will not tolerate their insane laws. Martyrs, they call themselves, but the world will always remember them " As the devil, himself."

May America forever remember the heroes of 9/11, and Mayor, may your infamous name fade away with the annals of time.

## **Memories**

© 2011 by Jackie R. Kays

memories-jackie-kays-2011

Metal ravens fly in the black of night, to avoid the sun's brilliant light. Eggs of steel drop silently, when the target is in sight.

The ugly little jesters in their black pajamas dance with glee all around, while we bleed and died in the air and on the ground.

The monkey is on the mountain and the elephant grass is tall, while monsoon mud covers us all!

Beauty is in the night orchid, but death is in the air. Beware...beware, for bouncing Bette's are buried everywhere!

This game is for real, bullets, bombs, Claymores, razor sharp wire, people, places and things on fire. Snakes, super-sized rats and deadliest of them all; delayed death...agent orange from the sky did fall.

In the dark of the jungle, silent movement suspicious and out of sight, Hồ Chí Minh trail is busy again tonight!

The deafening roar of Fifty Two's on darkened runways night after night. Death in the air, death on the ground, death all around!

Anger, night sweats, PTSD, and the boogieman too...gifts of war forevermore!

On and on it goes, indiscreetly devouring the innocent and guilty alike, thousands by day and night, no end obviously in sight!

War is its name; no one seems to want to take the blame, but, blame there is more than enough to go around!

We will just have to wait, till it's all over and see what comes down!

My Flag

© 2006 Kent Rutledge

I'm always proud to fly my flag, but this is your flag too. It always stands for freedom, in everything we do.

But don't forget the ones who served, so freedom we could know. Our "Stars and Stripes" forever, fly high so they may show.

The flags you waved so proudly, to welcome our troops home. Don't put them in the closet, to sit there all alone.

Remember what we fought for, and raise your flag with pride. You can fly yours next to mine, we'll fly them side by side.

We'll always be united, together we will stand. We'll fight for God and Country, to keep "Old Glory" grand.

There's one thing to remember, no matter what you do. Don't ever disrespect my flag, my flag is your flag too. And Now We Say Goodbye © 2006 by Howard G. Yates In Honor of A1C Carl Ware, 15th Security Forces

And Now We Say Goodbye Great sadness fills our hearts today As pipes and drums, in slow march play.

A comrade's fallen by the way, And now we say goodbye.

This hero to the very end Was more than just a casual friend, Who would a stranger's life defend, And now we say goodbye

But we shall cherish, all our days, The character this life portrayed With sacrifice so freely made, And now we say goodbye.

The hand salute, o'er Stars and Stripes, And distant skirl of highland pipes, Give last farewell with hero's rights, And now we say goodbye.

While here on Earth, you gave your best. Now in the Master's arms you rest. T'is by your memory we are blessed. And now we say goodbye. Independence Day 4th of July My Thoughts © 2006 by Eddie Stott

## **My Thoughts**

As we celebrate Independence Day we need to remember that our freedom is the result of many people whom have made a sacrifice for us to be here. Just think of all the things that you can do and accomplish in a free society that we are so fortunate to be in.

We tend to take our Freedom for granted and we need to remember and pay homage to the individuals that gave it to us. Also we need to never forget that there are millions of people whom fought for us to maintain the right to be free. Our Soldiers whom are now worldwide in places like Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and all over the world need to know that we support them and are extremely thankful for what they do for us and our principles. It is the women and men like them that insure that we will be able to continue our rights and live in a free society.

Because of them and those who fought in past conflicts like World War I, World War II, South Korea, Viet Nam and other areas we are fortunate to be able to remember the sacrifice they made (some of them Ultimate like my friend Louis B Arnold who died on October 31, 1967 in Loc Ninh) to allow us to celebrate the holiday, remember what our flag stands for and Thank God that we are Americans from the United States.

These Guys and Gals gave all so you could be here and don't forget and make sure you tell them how much you appreciate them. When I display my flags I remember quite a bit from the past and while it brings back the painful reality of the past, my tears look forward to the day I will join my buddies.

God Bless America! I love it, and I always am thankful for being here, and I Never forget what made it possible!

## Home of the Brave on the Fourth of July

© 2002 by Jackie R. Kays

Home-of-the-brave-4-july-jackie-kays-2011

There's nothing like hot dogs and apple pie on the Fourth of July... A parade down main street with the musical band, soldiers marching with their flags and banners flying high. Kids following with their red, white and Blue balloons floating in the sky.

Swimming holes, fishing poles, and ball games in the park. Sack racing, badminton, lawn bowling until it gets dark. Fried chicken, potato salad, corn bread and beans.

Soda pop, watermelon, homemade ice cream. The men and women talk, while the kids all play and scream. And on the band stand the director leads everyone in singing the "Star Spangle Banner."

The sun goes down and the fireworks can be seen all over town. That's how we Americans celibate the birthday of the good old USA. And God willing...that's how it will always stay.

Oh! How magnificent American stands between the two great oceans in God's hands.

## Freedom Is Not Free

© 2006 by Chaplain Steve

They say I'm short and homeward bound. Then why is there no happiness found? One year here will soon be ore. And I'll walk to that Freedom Bird door. But I can't relax, no letting down.. why? Because to let down may mean to die. It's like a dream, can it really be. Everyone cheers as we fly by.. But thinking of Friends below just makes me sigh. God be with you, I know your fears. I didn't know it then, but the next time I'd see some Of you would be twenty years.

The plane gets me home and I kiss the ground. The family I left is the same one I found. We embrace and hug and cannot separate. The difference in life and death is only fate. When I was there I dreamed of home. Now I am here but how my mind does roam.

When I was young I was taught at school. That freedom wasn't free and about the Golden Rule. I know them both but one came hard: To learn it I had to leave my own back yard.

...God's peace to all this Sept 11th....

# The Piper's Prayer

© 2000 by Howard Yates For Shelia Cain's Dad

The piper's tune is like a prayer, But says much more than words can share. Each note proclaims Amazing Grace, And lifts our hearts towards Heaven's Gates.

So now our piper plays his tune, An intercession just for you. A tune that's played from heart and soul, To seek His touch and make you whole.

## The Blue Beret

© 2006 by Howard Yates I would like to dedicate this poem to my son, 2nd Lt. Kyle G. Yates, USAF.

Brave guardians who always stand As beacons in the night Securing peace with vigilance Preserving all that's right.

Day after day they carry on Committed to the law Patrolling streets and walking beats, Protecting one and all.

And should the force of tyranny Endanger freedom's light The ones who wear the Blue Beret Step up to join the fight

From Air Force blue to jungle green And desert cammy too The Airmen of the Blue Beret Forever, proud and true.

#### Tribute to the Sky Cops

© 2006 by Howard Yates

There is a band of tried and true With members far and wide They come from every walk of life But share a common pride

They chose to heed their country's call And sacrifices make They traveled to a foreign land Whose freedom was at stake.

Some spent their nights in solitude And listened with intent While others braved the noon time sun Whose heat would not relent.

Though many times the enemy Would hope to find them weak Those modern day centurions Were always at their peak.

While some may question what they did The history books will teach When sky cops took the watch in Nam Their walls were hard to breach.

From those of us who made it home To those who gave their all In gratitude we bow our heads Their honor to recall.

## On My Oath

© 2000 by Howard Yates Reflection about a law enforcement career

Words alone cannot portray, Exactly how I felt that day.

To raise my hand and pledge to keep Safe homes and schools and city streets.

Perhaps I could not really see How much this role would mean to me, Or how my actions would affect, So many lives, in retrospect.

To be a model for the young, A task that's never really done, Or lend an arm to feeble feet, Just long enough to cross the street.

To recognize each house and face And know when things were out of place. To memorize the statutes all, Yet keep the spirit of the law.

To keep a watch through midnight dark, Or try to save a failing heart. To mend a family's broken ties, Or hear the truth through spoken lies.

To champion the cause of right. Protect the good and evil fight. To apprehend the ones who'd prey, Upon the weak, then run away.

No wealth, no fame, not one regret. For never did I once forget, Why, to that oath, I raised my hand. To serve my God and fellow man.

## Osama Bin Laden, your time is short....

© Sep 11, 2006 by Chaplain Steve [In memory: September 11, 2001]

Osama Bin Laden, your time is short;

We'd rather you die, than come to court. Why are you hiding if it was in God's name? Your just a punk with a turban; a pathetic shame.

I have a question, about your theory and laws; "How come YOU never die for *the cause*?"

Is it because you're a coward who counts on others?

Well, here in America, we stand by our brothers.

As is usual, you failed in your mission; If you expected pure chaos, you can keep on wishing

Americans are now focused and stronger than ever; Your death has become our next endeavor.

What you tried to kill doesn't live in our walls;

It's not in buildings or shopping malls.

If all of our structures came crashing down; It would still be there, safe and sound.

Because pride and courage can't be destroyed; Even if the towers leave a deep void.

We'll band together and fill the holes We'll bury our dead and bless their souls.

But then our energy will focus on you; And you'll feel the wrath of the Red White and Blue.

So slither and hide like a snake in the grass; Because America's coming to Kick your \_\_\_\_\_!!!

## **Desert Scorpions**

© 2006 by Howard Yates

Burrowed just beneath the sand They hide throughout that arid land And those who know their awful sting Bear witness to the pain it brings

They sometimes venture from their nest In secrecy which suits them best. An evil kingdom to expand They're spreading fear throughout the land.

These scorpions from ancient times Are soon to lose their poison spines And they will learn just how it feels To die beneath a G.I's heel.

Then those who call that desert home Will once again be free to roam Not worried by that creature's sting And all the pain it used to bring.