

Fifty Years Ago Today

(c) July 2015, by Don Poss

Da Nang AB, Blackie 129X. 1965-1966

I landed in Vietnam
Fifty years ago today.
To think I volunteered for this dung hole in the sun.

At certain hours of the day,
I'll admit there was beauty.

The enemy made their noise;
each side killed their due;
We had H&I (harassment & interdiction)
They had H&H (heat & humidity)
The good things were the bonds made in war
The bad was everything else.

And when it was time to leave
I kicked Vietnam's dust from my feet.
When I think of Nam today
There are new roads, buildings, and bridges.

China Beach is still golden. Our old RVN air bases are
now *their* international airports.
Forced-reeducation, the fates of many South
Vietnamese as reward for *failing to win* their fight for
freedom was their pearly-gates...
when Saigon fell, 30 April 1975.

And now, it's too late...
and too bad.

Fifty years have passed this very day.
The cost was too high—
58,220 to early graves.

I have touched friends' *etched-names*
On the black marble wall...
I hope somehow, they are waiting
on the otherside for us all.