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 Chaplain Steve

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 Terry Sasek BT 68-69 LM-687

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>

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 <u>Terry Sasek BT 68-69 LM-687</u>

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 Terry Sasek BT 68-69 LM-687

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 Jackie R. Kays

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 <u>Don Poss</u>

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 still miss those who fell ... as do we.

You can stand with us.

You are not alone. There are no dust offs for wounds of the soul ... but we are here waiting.

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

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

© 2011 by Terry Sasek BT 68-69 LM-687

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

"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

© 2011 by <u>Terry Sasek BT 68-69 LM-687</u>

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

© 2011 by Terry Sasek BT 68-69 LM-687

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 <u>Terry Sasek BT 68-69 LM-687</u>

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

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

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

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.