

Legacy of a Combat Veteran

Many years have quickly passed,
Not all of them were kind,
The dreams I thought would never last,
Still burning in my mind.

I thought that I would grow and change,
Remove my guilt and fear
But all attempts were made in vain,
The ghosts are always near.

A sound, a smell, a single word,
Can take me back again,
The place that seems a world away,
Is just around the bend.

A vision bursts into my mind,
Of smoke and broken trees,
I see the dying and the dead,
A medic on his knees.

I feel the heat, I taste the air,
I scramble for the ground,
I hear the firing of a gun, I see the blinding flash,
Another friend is down.

Our enemy is waiting,
He's hidden in the green,
He has made his presence obvious,
But, never is he seen.

And just as quickly as it came,
The vision slips away,
The thoughts, the dreams, they are all the same,
It is just a different day.

I shake my head, I wipe my tears,
I strain to clear my mind,
Why can't I wipe away the fears,
And leave the war behind?

I thought I had the answer,
With the bottle at my side,
A quick and easy antidote,
A place for me to hide.

The potion made me thirsty
For it's miraculous relief,
What I thought was saving me,
Has only brought me grief.

And now the drink betrays me,
It's magic all but gone,
I wallow in self-pity,
I cry the same old song.

Surely, there is an Army,
Of old soldiers, just like me.
A regiment of battered souls,
A group in unity.

We are all good men, who made it through,
The HELL that is our past,
Shall we band together,
A battle weary cast.

We seek the help of others,
Who understand our fears
Men who dare to show their grief,
We cry some bitter tears.

We came home, scarred, broken men,
With resentment, even hate,
It's time to heal our wounded souls,
Before it is too late.

We served our country honorably,
We gave all we could give,
It's time for us to be set free,

It's time for US to LIVE!

**Dedicated to the Hero's of the
589th Engineers
To the ones that paid with their life,
and
The one that are paying the rest of their lives**