

ODE TO A VIETNAM VETERAN

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Somewhere in 'Nam a young boy waits,
alone in the jungle to do what he hates.
Confronting the enemy, which never seems to end;
on a journey for life, on a journey for men.
Fighting beyond all his restrictions,
facing all horrors, deaths, and afflictions.
Walking the tightrope of life and death,
dying a little at a buddy's last breath.
Creeping along the turbid jungle floor;
and beyond all his fears is the thought, 'What am I here for?'
spilling his blood, but for what cause?

Somewhere in 'Nam a young boy fights,
fighting for freedom and the American rights.
Grasping just to stay alive,
and watching comrades fall on every side.
Wishing he could be home once again
to see his family and show his love for them.
Every day becomes his last,
forging ahead, never forgetting the past.
Killing as a way of life,
marring his memory with torment and strife.
Risking his valiant life for a friend,
wondering someday, there must be an end.

Somewhere in 'Nam a young boy dies.
Nobody's there; nobody cries.
Another brave young life has gone to waste;
the future of a child has been erased.
And when the news finally reaches home
a tear will be shed, but only by his own.
His tormented feelings never released.
How can anyone believe he's resting in peace.
Young boys could've been spared without this damn war,
to live and to prosper as generations before.
Let us remember what we owe to men like him,
at least a poem or tribute to a Vietnam Veteran.

Somewhere in 'Nam once young men still wait,
alone in the jungle, awaiting their fate . . .

Somewhere back home a young boy will live
missing the security a daddy could give;
losing a father to talk with and play,
forgotten as a P.O.W. or M.I.A.
A wife will also be watching and waiting,
living on with hope ever contemplating,
trying to explain loss to child,
and the fears he feels never reconciled.
Keeping family life as normal as will allow,
wanting him home, but not knowing how.
The youngster lives on as his father before,
but praying he'll never face the unknowns of war.