

THE VETERAN

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever-waffling stand?

He was just a common Veteran,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his likes again.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Joe has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Veteran died today.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Veteran died today.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a Veteran
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

While the ordinary Veteran,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

Or would you want a Veteran
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Veteran,
Who would fight until the end.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Veteran's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

**"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A VETERAN DIED TODAY."**

"

Author Unknown

Poem provided by Ray Paradowski
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