



My Veteran's Day Prayer

by Clinton B. Campbell

Lord, when the pull of my bed
lures me to stay another hour,
please remind me of taps
being played for the fallen,
of the tears that reach my cheek
after each name is read,
the ones I knew personally
and the ones old-timers
talk about in awe.

After the crowd stumbles through
The Pledge of Allegiance
I want to be there
and listen with all my heart
while the winner of this year's
essay contest quiets the crowd
reminding us of why
we are paying our respects.

When the closing prayer is read
I want to look around in honor
at my fellow vets,
the men and the women
in their timeworn uniforms.
Let me see them as they were,
splendidly marching forward
with the courage that allows us
to have a choice of whether
we come here today or not.