

A Veteran Died Today

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the VFW, telling stories of the past.
Of a war that he had fought in, and the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies; they were heroes, every one.

And tho' sometimes to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,
All his VFW buddies listened, for they knew where of he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer, for he has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer, for a veteran died today.

He will not be mourned by many, just his family and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary, and quite uneventful life.
Held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way,
And the world won't note his passing, though a veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing, and proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell their whole life stories, from the time that they were young,
But the passing of a veteran, goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution, to the welfare of our land,
A guy who breaks his promises, and cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow, who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his Country, and offers up his life?

A politician's stipend, and the style in which he lives,
Are sometimes disproportionate, to the service that he gives.
While the ordinary veteran, who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal, and perhaps a pension, if at all.

It's oh so easy to forget them, for it was so long ago,
That the old veterans of our Country went to battle, but we know.
It was 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 want a politician with his ever-shifting stand?
Or would you prefer a veteran, who has sworn to defend his Home.
his kin and his Country, and would fight until the end?

He was just a common veteran, and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us, we may need his like again.
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier'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.
Perhaps just a simple headline, in a paper that would say,
Our Country is in mourning, for a veteran died today.

Author Unknown: written several years ago by the grandchild of a veteran who had just passed away. Presented by Mike Janto, HLHG Member, from an article originally published in the Dodgeville, Wisconsin Chronicle.