

A NATION BLESSED WITH HEROES

(1)

As you travel in America
Thru her cities and small towns
From Key West up to Idaho
From Maine to Puget Sound
You'll find in places big or small
Where e'er your highway leads
A park with a proud memorial
Full of names that no one reads
Just a lonely slab of granite
Or a statue aged and green
Of a patriot who gave his life
In defense of Freedom's dream
And who made the ultimate sacrifice
In some battle long ago
But his name we don't remember
And the battle we don't know

(CHORUS)

*We're a nation blessed with heroes
But how quickly we forget
The reason why we honor them
And why we're in their debt
They have offered up their lives for us
To keep us safe and free
A nation blessed with heroes
Is our land of liberty!*

(2)

Maybe once a year the children come
Bearing flags in tiny hands
To sing "God Bless America"
And to listen to the bands
To hear an old man read a speech
He can't finish for the tears
Always something about a sacrifice
And the call a young man hears
There are veterans in their uniforms

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Placing flowers near a stone
While a Gold Star Mother reads a prayer
Thru a raspy microphone
And the children watch with puzzled eyes
As the high school boy plays Taps
And they wonder why their mamas cry
And their dads take off their caps
(CHORUS)

(3)

In Flanders Fields and Normandy
Iwo Jima, Midway, Pearl
Our heroes carried high the torch
To light a darkened world
To win a peace they hoped would last
But alas, they hoped in vain:
When new enemies threatened freedom
They were called on once again
And then there came the Sixties
And the days of trust were gone
While the hippies danced at Woodstock
Men were falling at Khe Sanh
Then back from Nam our bravest came
With horror in their eyes
To the flower children's "welcome home"
Of curses, hate, and lies

(4)

We suffered one September day
At the hands of an enemy
But we know the job our heroes did
In New York and in D C
And out in Pennsylvania
Above a field that has no name
Died those who heard a call for help
And answered when it came
But they're heroes too, our friends next door
Who serve so selflessly:
The teacher, the priest, the fireman
The cop, the E M T

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The volunteer who offers help
To a hurt voice on the phone
The nurse who holds an old man's hand
So he will not die alone
(CHORUS)

(5)

We have watched another desert war
We were there beside Marines
We have listened to the talking heads
Tell us what the fighting means
We sit there eating sandwiches
While our young men go thru Hell
The real "reality TV"
We can't grasp it all that well:
That a hero's not just a statue
In some corner of the park
It's a neighbor's son in camouflage
Dodging bullets in the dark
It's your sister's kid they'll be honoring
When they name the new Town Hall
Every fallen hero breaks your heart
But you'll miss him most of all!
(CHORUS)

-B.BLACK
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