

Memories of War

by

Floyd W. Jiminez

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MEMORIES OF WAR
by
FLOYD W. JIMINEZ
CW3 USAR *Retired*



The poems in this book were written by myself some twenty years after my return from Vietnam. They reflect the feelings that were bottled up inside for too long. I am grateful that God gave me the talent to put into words the feeling that I had suppressed for so many years. This book is dedicated to the 58,000 men and women who fought bravely and gave their all. They are true heroes. And to those who returned and are still fighting the demons in their dreams. I also dedicate this to CW2 David A. Hickman who took my place on that fateful day. The poem why explains the reason. To my late wife Debbie. I could not have done this without you there giving me the courage to continue.

Floyd W. Jiminez

I LEARNED TO CRY

WHEN WE WERE LEARNING TO SOAR THROUGH THE SKY
NONE OF US THOUGHT THAT SOMEDAY WED CRY
WE WERE TRAINING FOR A JOB WITH OLD UNCLE SAM
TO GO DO OUR DUTY IN A PLACE CALLED VIET NAM

THEY FILLED OUR HEADS WITH THE PHYSICS OF FLIGHT

WED FLY IN THE DAY TIME AND SOMETIMES AT NIGHT
AFTER NINE MONTHS WE HAD LEARNED HOW TO FLY
BUT NONE OF US THOUGHT THAT WED LEARN HOW TO CRY

WE MADE NEW FRIENDS ON THE VERY FIRST DAY
AND AFTER EACH MISSION WE LEARNED HOW TO PRAY
WE HAD SOME GOOD TIMES AND SOME OF THEM BAD
NONE OF US THOUGHT WE COULD EVER BE SAD

WE THOUGHT OF OUR LOVED ONES WAITING AT HOME
AND SOMETIMES AT NIGHT WE FELT SO ALONE
WE KNEW ANY DAY THAT WE MIGHT DIE
WE STILL NEVER THOUGHT WED LEARN HOW TO CRY

WE FLEW WHEN IT WAS SUNNY AND WHEN IT WAS GRAY
WED GO TO THE CLUB AT THE END OF THE DAY
AS WE SAT THERE LAUGHING AND DRINKING OUR BEER
WE STILL NEVER THOUGHT THAT WED SHED A TEAR

THE SIRENS WOULD WAIL AND THE MORTARS WOULD FALL
THE HOT LINE WOULD RING AND WED GET THE CALL
A FIRE BASE UP NORTH WAS BEING OVER RUN
WED FLY AND WED FIGHT UNTIL OUR JOB WAS DONE

THEN ONE RAINY DAY THINGS REALLY GOT BAD
THEY ASKED US TO LAUNCH EVERY SHIP THAT WE HAD
WE RACED THROUGH THE SKY OUR HEARTS FILLED WITH FEAR
WE STILL NEVER THOUGHT THAT WED SHED A TEAR

WE FOUGHT TO WIN GOD KNOWS WE TRIED
BUT HOW CAN YOU WIN WHEN YOUR HANDS ARE TIED
WE KEPT ON FIGHTING AND WATCHED OUR FRIENDS DIE
NOW IT WAS TIME TO LEARN HOW TO CRY

IT'S BEEN TWENTY YEARS SINCE I LEFT VIET NAM
I NO LONGER WORK FOR UNCLE SAM
I'M STILL VERY THANKFUL HE TAUGHT ME TO FLY
BUT NOT FOR THE WAY HE TAUGHT ME TO CRY

DEEP IN MY HEART WHEN SITTING ALONE

I THINK OF THE ONES WHO NEVER CAME HOME
I LIFT MY HEAD AND LOOK TOWARD THE SKY
THANK YOU LORD FOR TEACHING ME TO CRY



Close Friends

*They wonder why we sit and cry
When we visit the healing wall
But they weren't there to feel the fear
As we watched our buddies fall*

*Some days it seems so long ago
And some like yesterday
We learned to fight, we learned to cry
We also learned to pray*

*We never really made close friends
Most people wonder why
Because we knew that any day
They might be the next to die*

*We didn't want to deal with
The death of a close friend
Now we think of those we lost
And cry, then cry again*

*Floyd W. Jiminez
CW3 USAR Retired*



The Veteran

*We lost another Vet today
We laid him down to rest
But when he walked upon this earth
He walked among the best*

*He went to war for his country
To protect our way of life
He never had a second thought
Though his days were filled with strife*

*When his tour was over
And he finally came back home
He knew that things were different
And sometimes he felt alone*

*His dreams were filled with horrors
He was afraid to go to sleep
Because he knew by morning
He'd wake and he would weep*

*Now those dreams are over
He'll finally get some rest
For today he walks again
Among the very best*



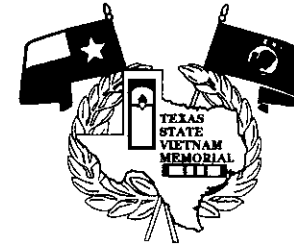
We went to fight

**We went off to fight in that unpopular war
We were proud to go and do our patriotic chore
Though we did the best we could in that place called Vietnam
We all came back to a world that didn't understand**

**We dreamed of coming home to our family's open arms
Instead we found a different world that wasn't quite so warm
Although we tried to live our lives in a world we hardly knew
Everything changed so much we didn't know what to do**

**We still carry our heavy burdens deep within our heart
You know we tried so very hard to make a brand new start
But the memories of our lives in that land so far away
Will haunt us one and all until our dying day**

**Someday the world my finally see why we're all alone
Then maybe they'll open their hearts
And finally welcome us home**



Reflections

**As I sit here alone and reflect upon the past
I wonder how the years go flying by so fast
It's nearly thirty years now since I learned to fly
It's been almost that long since I learned to cry**

**In that God forsaken land they called Vietnam
We fought and died and there were few who gave a damn
The only ones who really cared were our family and our friends
The stood by our sides right to the end**

**They didn't care what we had done
And they didn't care that we hadn't won
They helped us heal our wounds and helped rebuild our pride
They even held us close when we sat and cried**

**Things are much better now I'm not so all alone
I thank God each day for letting me come home**



Vietnam

Vietnam you've been living hell to me
They brought us here to keep your country free
I've seen them come and go I've seen them cry
And long ago I stopped asking why

Vietnam what good do you think we do
Do you think you'll be different when we're through
Some came here as a boy and left a man
And many shed their blood across your land

I used to kneel and ask God why
Now I sit alone and I cry
So many gave their life to keep you free
They died for a cause that could never be

Vietnam may you rot and burn in hell
May our children learn from the stories that we tell
How many brave men had to fight and die
And why those that live sit and cry



FRIENDS FOREVER

**We came together as strangers
We came from near and far**

**We learned the things they taught us
To go and fight a war**

**When we finished training
We knew where we would go
They put us on a transport ship
God it was so slow**

**When we arrived in Vietnam
the sounds of war were clear
not one of us spoke a word
for our hearts were filled with fear**

**We soon became close Friends
and covered each others back
He always took the point
Courage he didn't lack**

**He saved the lives of two men
I don't know who they are
For his act of bravery
He earned the bronze star**

**Then one day we were ambushed
And he was the first to fall
We pulled him back to safety
And then we made the call.**

**Dustoff came to get him
They carried him away
That's when the tears began
They still fall today**

**I think about him now and then
I guess I always will
For He was my best friend
And I love him still**



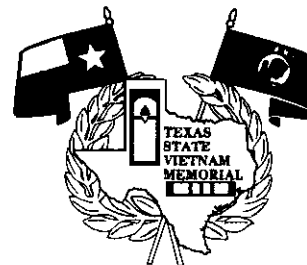
HIDDEN TEARS

IT SEEMS AS THOUGH A HUNDRED YEARS
HAVE COME AND GONE SINCE THEN
THE QUESTION THAT STILL HAUNTS ME
IS WHY DIDN'T YOU LET US WIN

IN OUR HEARTS WE EACH KNEW
THAT THE OTHER WAS SCARED OF DEATH
WITH EACH AND EVERY MISSION WE WONDERED
WITH THIS ONE WOULD WE DRAW OUR LAST
BREATH

WE LAUGHED AND JOKED AND DRANK OUR BEER
I GUESS TO KEEP FROM CRYING
WHILE ALL AROUND US EVERY DAY
OUR FRIENDS WERE QUICKLY DYING

IF YOU HAD ONLY BEEN THERE
YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND OUR FEARS
AND WHY SOMETIMES WE WALK ALONE IN THE
RAIN
TO SUBTLY HIDE OUR TEARS



Lost Friends

**They came from around our country
These men who went to war
They traveled around the world
To countries near and far**

**They came from farms and cities
They are just like you and me
But they risk their lives everyday
To keep our country free**

**Their lives are changed forever
They will never be the same
Sometimes they lie awake at night
And call their buddies name**

**They know they will never answer
But every night they try
They think about their long lost friends
And every night they cry.**



They also Served

*Few of us ever saw them
Although we knew they were there
I guess we were the lucky ones
Who didn't need their care*

*They worked many hours
Sometimes without rest
We left our friends with them
And knew they would do their best*

*They helped save many lives
They also lost a few
But you can rest assured
They did all they could do*

*They cried when they were alone
And tried to hide their pain
They'd pull themselves together
And do it all again*

*They endured the ways of war
And sometimes there were curses
They just turned the other cheek
Because they were our NURSES*



Why

*I never really knew him
I can't recall his name
I only know since that day
I've never been the same*

*We were on a routine flight
We flew some VIP
They sent him out to meet us
He traded places with me*

*They sent me to survival school
Why I'll never know
The only choice they gave me
Was to pack a bag and go*

*When I returned ten days later
I learned that he had died
No one ever saw the tears
But deep inside I cried*

*I guess someday I will learn
The reason as to why
On that day God chose him
Instead of me to die*

*Floyd W. Jimenez
CW3 USAR Retired*

*Dedicated to the memory of
CW2 David Allen Hickman*



The Cost

**We were asked to fight a war
That no one understood
We fought and died God knows we tried
To do the best we could**

**We fought with pride and honor
We thought we would win
As the years went by we didn't care
We just hoped that it would end**

**When it was finally over
And most of us came home
Our world had somehow changed
And we stood there all alone**

**We knew the war was over
And we knew that we had lost
But still today we wonder
Was it really worth the cost**

Floyd W. Jiminez



CW3 Jiminez In Vietnam 1970

Mr. Jiminez enlisted in the Army in January 1968 after spending nine years in the Texas National Guard. After basic training he began helicopter flight training. After completion of flight school he was assigned to the 68th Assault Helicopter Company which was located at Bien Hoa Air Base. He earned the Bronze Star and the Air Medal with V device along with other medals. He also served with the 377th Air Ambulance Company from 1972 to 1973 in the Republic of Korea. He left active duty in 1977 and joined the reserves in the Dallas area. In 1981 he retired from the reserves. He is also retired from a local power company. He now lives just south of Fort Worth, Texas enjoying his retirement. He is active in the VFW as well as Secretary/Treasurer for the Friends of the Texas State Vietnam Memorial located at Fair Park in Dallas



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