



*Above: The late Mike O'Donnell with the Slick that he flew with 170th Assault Helicopter Company 'Bikinis'.
(via James E. Lake)*

*If you are able,
save for them a place
inside of you
and save one backward glance
when you are leaving
for the places they can
no longer go.
Be not ashamed to say
you loved them,
though you may
or may not have always.*

*Take what they have left
and what they have taught you
with their dying
and keep it with your own.
And in that time
when men decide and feel safe
to call the war insane,
take one moment to embrace
those gentle heroes
you left behind.*

*Major Michael Davis O'Donnell
1 January 1970
Dak To, Vietnam*

On 24 March 1970 Michael O'Donnell, a helicopter pilot, was killed in action in Cambodia whilst attempting to rescue a Special Forces team that was about to be overrun.