



*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.*