

Brittany Pointe Estates Veterans Affairs Committee



BPE Pointer Article

Veterans' Corner

by Bob Berger

Last week, my friend Betty Korsch sent me a very poignant poem about losing a veteran. I shared it with our entire Veteran Affairs Committee. They too felt moved by these special words. The original poem written by A. Lawrence Vaincourt, 1987, however, had several stanzas referring to all politicians in a very unflattering manner. Rick Izard and I believe that these unkind words for all politicians was inconsistent with the central theme of the poem. Therefore, the original poem was abridged to remove those passages. The resulting poem is presented here with the hope and belief that the remaining words help all of us remember the lives of those veterans who have passed away. If by chance, you find a tear or two running down your face after reading these very touching words, you are not alone. We are truly blessed by these individuals making our families stronger and our country a better place to live. It has been suggested that this poem be permanently mounted on the Wall of Honor. Perhaps with a byline simply stating, **"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING, A VETERAN DIED TODAY."**

**"A Veteran Died Today" by A. Lawrence
Vaincourt, 1987, Abridged Version**

He was getting old and
paunchy
And his hair was falling
fast,
And he sat around the
Legion,
Telling stories of the
past.

Of a war that he once fought
in
And the deeds that he had
done,
In his exploits with his
buddies;
They were heroes, everyone.

And 'tho sometimes to his
neighbors
His tales became a
joke,
All his buddies listened
quietly
For they knew where of he
spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no
longer,
For ol' Joe has passed
away,
And the world's a little
poorer
For a Veteran died
today.

He won't be mourned by
many,
Just his children and his
wife.
For he lived an
ordinary,
Very quiet sort of
life.

He held a job and raised a
family,
Going quietly on his
way;
And the world won't note his
passing,
'Tho a Veteran died
today.

He was just a common
Veteran,
And his ranks are growing
thin,
But his presence should remind
us
We may need his likes
again.

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 the paper that might
say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN
MOURNING,
A VETERAN DIED
TODAY."