

## **A SOLDIER DIED TODAY**

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, every one.

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' Bob has passed away,  
And the world's a little poorer  
For a Soldier 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 Soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,  
Their bodies lie in state,  
While thousands note their passing,  
And proclaim that they were great.  
Papers tell of their life stories  
From the time that they were young  
But the passing of a Soldier  
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution  
To the welfare of our land,  
Some jerk who breaks his promise  
And cons his fellow man?  
Or the ordinary fellow  
Who in times of war and strife,  
Goes off to serve his country  
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend  
And the style in which he lives,  
Are often disproportionate,  
To the service that he gives.  
While the ordinary Soldier,  
Who offered up his all,  
Is paid off with a medal

And perhaps a pension, small.  
It's so easy to forget them,  
For it is so many times  
That our Bobs and Jims and Johnnys,  
Went to battle, but we know,

It is not the politicians  
With their compromise and ploys,  
Who won for us the freedom  
That our country now enjoys.  
Should you find yourself in danger,  
With your enemies at hand,  
Would you really want some cop-out,  
With his ever waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier--  
His home, his country, his kin,  
Just a common Soldier,  
Who would fight until the end.  
He was just a common Soldier,

And his ranks are growing thin,  
But his presence should remind us  
We may need his like again.  
For when countries are in conflict,  
We find the Soldier's part  
Is to clean up all the troubles

That the politicians start.  
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  
SOLDIER DIED TODAY."**