

I AM A VETERAN

**I shivered that cold winter at Valley Forge,
I rejoiced at the glorious surrender at Yorktown.
I wept as the flames engulfed Washington
And I said, "Never again."**

**I wore blue and I bled red.
I wore gray and I bled red.
The blood I spilled was to reunite a nation
of the people, by the people and for the people.
I AM A VETERAN!**

**I was at Little Big Horn and I prayed.
I was at Wounded Knee and I prayed.
I prayed that one day the old Americans
And the new Americans would be one people.**

**I was there to charge up the hill at San Juan.
I knew that my country was emerging beyond its borders.
I was prepared to make the world safe for democracy.**

**Young and idealistic,
I came to France
To turn back the enemy in this war;
the war to end all wars.
I AM A VETERAN!**

**It was with disbelief that I became
a part of the day that will live in infamy.
Once more I said good-bye to those I loved,
to protect my country.
Across the vast desert I met the enemy.
I met him on island after island.
I kept my promise to return.**

**I met him on the beaches of Normandy.
I repelled him from the gates of Bataan.
I freed thousands from the shadow of death.
I AM A VETERAN!**

**A small nation cried out for help
And I came because others had been there for me.
A nation was saved.
I felt the agony of defeat in the jungles of a distant land,
But I held my head high, and when another people cried out,
I once again put on my uniform to save them from tyranny.**

**Today, I remain ready to pledge my life,
My property, my sacred home,
Until there is peace and freedom on earth
For everyone, everywhere.
I AM A VETERAN.**

