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“Saluting Our Heroes”

The Sa·lute

/səloot/

From the dictionary pages what does it mean?

“a gesture of respect, or homage

a polite recognition or acknowledgment”

But can it mean anything more? A simple salute,

“given to a person when arriving or departing”.

But what if our salutes are for those long gone,

For those unable to receive them?

Those we cannot see and do not hear.

A salute can show a far deeper meaning

Then a visible gesture, if we let it.

More than a recognition.

Or words defined on a dictionary page.

The true meaning of the salute can be everything to some,

It is compassion, from the heart of the giver,

To the heart of the servant, for their service.

It appreciates those who served

For *us*

It recognizes those who fought

For *you*

Those who died

For humanity.

And those veterans still deep in fear,

Our people, years after their uniformed fight

Many unremembered, unacknowledged, some forgotten.

Dreams flowing with memories.

Horrors unforgotten

How needed is our salute to them?

Not arriving ready to serve,

Or departed with their journeys done.

But those here and now.

How must it feel for the struggling veteran?

After their service.

Living lives with struggle and weight
Always on their shoulders
So we must remember to honor those
Who made such a bold sacrifice.
For *our* safety, for *our* comforts,
But also for *our* rights and *our* freedoms.
Because, our salute gives recognition and acknowledgment
But we can add our respect,
Our undying gratitude,
Our love.

A salute is for those who are dedicated.
Dedicated to Humanity, to Kindness, to Freedom,
For those who served who are departed,
Who gave everything for Us, for You, for Me.
Those still with us
And those to come,
Those who fought, those who tried,
Those who struggled and for all who died.