

JUST A COMMON SOLDIER (EXCERPTS)



BY A. LAWRENCE VAINCOURT



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 THOUGH SOMETIMES TO HIS NEIGHBORS
HIS TALES BECAME A JOKE,
ALL HIS LEGION BUDDIES LISTENED ,
FOR THEY KNEW WHERE OF HE SPOKE.

BUT WE'LL HEAR HIS TALES NO LONGER,
FOR OL' JIM HAS PASSED AWAY,
AND THE WORLD'S A LITTLE POORER
FOR A SOLDIER DIED TODAY.

HE WILL NOT BE MOURNED BY MANY,
JUST HIS CHILDREN AND HIS WIFE.
FOR HE LIVED AN ORDINARY AND
QUITE UNEVENTFUL SORT OF LIFE.

HELD A JOB AND RAISED A FAMILY,
QUIETLY GOING ON HIS WAY;
AND THE WORLD WON'T NOTE HIS PASSING,
THOUGH A SOLDIER DIED TODAY.

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.

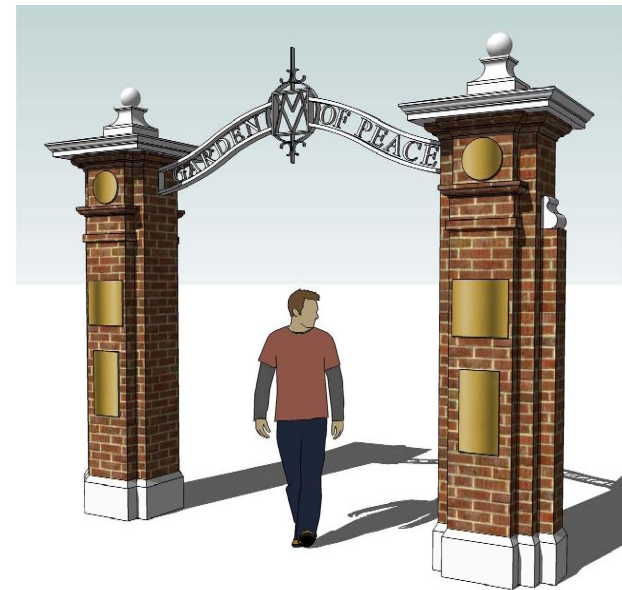
PERHAPS JUST A SIMPLE HEADLINE
IN THE PAPER THAT MIGHT SAY:

**"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING
FOR A SOLDIER DIED TODAY"**



GARDEN OF PEACE

DEDICATION CEREMONY



TWENTY-SEVENTH, NOVEMBER, 2010

AT TEN O'CLOCK

PORTAGE CEMETERY

MILLER'S VETS

DIVISION OF

CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS

THE CEREMONY

MUSIC— MICHIANA CONCERT ALUMNI BAND

BUGLE CALL— "ASSEMBLY"

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME— STEVE CAMILLERI,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS

INVOCATION— LT. COL. DON NEELEY,
RETIRED ARMY CHAPLAIN

POST AND PRESENT COLORS—MILLER'S VETS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NATIONAL ANTHEM— CHET AND LYNDSY TSCHEPETER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - STEVE CAMILLERI

GREETINGS AND DEDICATION

GRAVE DEDICATION— COUNTY COMMISSIONERS -
HON. DAVID THOMAS AND HON. ANDREW T. KOSTIELNEY

PILLAR UNVEILED— VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

GRAVES ACCEPTANCE— STEVE CAMILLERI

PILLAR UNVEILED— VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

INTRODUCTIONS — ROBERT L. MILLER, SR.,
COMMANDER, MILLER'S VETS

SEVEN RIFLE SALUTE AND TAPS—MILLER'S VETS

"PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU" - CHET-LYNDSY-, VETS AND
THE BAND

PROCLAMATION-DEDICATION AND CONSECRATION-
DANNY FORREST, PLATOON LEADER

BENEDICTION— LT. COL. DON NEELEY-

MILITARY MEDLEY— BAND

VETS RETIRE COLORS

SPECIAL THANKS

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