

November 2003
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The following poem and introduction were written especially for the 10th. Anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Woman's Memorial in Washington, DC.

I was privileged to be a part of the program and read the poem on Veterans Day, November 11, 2003 at the Woman's Memorial.

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There are thousands of Vietnam Veterans that couldn't attend this anniversary event. Former soldiers who have been able to marry, raise children, and enjoy grandchildren because of the heroic service of military nurses in Vietnam.

If those combat wounded veterans were here, there is something they would want to say to you, whose dedication and sacrifice we celebrate today.

So, in a simple poem, and on their behalf, I would like to tell all of you 'angels' of the Vietnam War, what they would likely tell you if they were here.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank you,

As I rise to meet the day.

For the songs of birds and sunshine's kiss,

And the gift of getting gray.

I would like to thank you,

For the gentle breeze I feel.

The scarred legs that carry me to work,

And how you helped them heal.

I would like to thank you,

For the children in my life.

The memories of their growing years,

I share with my loving wife.

I would like to thank you,

For the grandkid's that abound.
How they like to sit on grandpa's lap,
And the joy they bring around.
I would like to thank you,
For the sacrifice you made.
How you left your friends and family,
When you could have easily stayed.
I would like to thank you,
For the men you kept alive.
From treating wounds to giving hope,
Your the reason they survive.
I would like to thank you,
For the time you spent crying.
And the grief carried deep inside,
For all the soldiers dying.
I would like to thank you,
For the nights you didn't sleep.
And the horrible things you had to see,
Without the time to weep.
I would like to thank you,
For the nightmares you may see.
The smells that haunt your memory,
From which you can't be free.
I would like to thank you,
For the guts to volunteer.

The selfless service to your country,

Is why we hold you dear.

So, I just want to thank you,

It's the proper thing to do.

For all the dads and granddads,

Who are alive because of you.