

# Hymn to Delta Blue

By Glenn Currier

The other day in twilight hue  
with a setting sun of pinkish gold  
I felt the ghost of Delta Blue  
and from afar he touched my soul.

He sang a heartfelt battle hymn  
he sang his grief in sad refrain  
his soulful shouts shall never dim  
his words of brothers and their pain.

Have you a thorn deep in your heart  
that no amount of talk can take  
nor find a balm to make it part  
nor take away its dogged ache?

Is there something in you broken  
the docs can't seem to fix  
and nothing they have spoken  
no words nor drugs can nix?

He could not find a bridge away  
or anyone who really knew his scars.  
And he saw the folly every day  
of desperate hopeless wars.

He stood among the red and dead  
he drove a boat in waters brown  
and mixed with blood and tears and dread.  
No river could his sorrows drown.

His poems addressed our deafened ears  
his prayer that we would be alright  
all who fought those tortured years  
he prayed they'd hold on through the night.

I wish I'd met this gentle man  
who felt the wounds of war so deep  
I wish I'd gone to shake his hand  
to hear him laugh to hear him weep.

Let's stand and sing a requiem  
salute him and all the ones who gave.  
Let's honor them with heartfelt hymn  
and walk into their sunset grave.

"Hymn to Delta Blue," Copyright © 2014 by Glenn Currier  
Written 11-7-14

*Author's Note: This poem is dedicated to Delta Blue which is the pen name of my friend Russell Glen Robison who is published on VetPoets.org and on PoetryInProgress.net and is the subject of a special tribute page there. He was an extraordinary and sensitive poet who published five books, most of which reflected his experience in and as a result of the Vietnam war in which he valiantly served. I regret that I never went to nearby Red Oak, TX to meet him in person before his death 2-24-14. But I am glad I got to meet and get to know him through his poetry. I also dedicate this poem to all of Russell's brothers and sisters in arms who served in Vietnam and to their loved ones who traveled their tortured journey with them.*