



My Enemy

DON RAJOTTE

VOICE


VIRGINIA TECH.
PUBLISHING


ABSTRACT

A poem about Viet Nam submitted posthumously.

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KEYWORDS:

Poetry; Vietnam War; Memories

TO CITE THIS ARTICLE:

Rajotte, D. (2023). My Enemy.
Journal of Veterans Studies,
9(2), pp. 16–17. DOI: [https://doi.
org/10.21061/jvs.v9i2.377](https://doi.org/10.21061/jvs.v9i2.377)

My journey into Viet Nam 1965/66
 USS *Lenawee* to shore of Da Nang
 Disneyland of military & civilians.

First night a perimeter foxhole
 War stories/advice from departing survivors.
 Second night, alone realizing it's our turn
 Someone is going to attack intent to kill us.

Day patrol, ambushed, rifle fire and clamores
 Our leaders, our heroes lay dead in the darkness.
 Lifted by helicopters, fought near the sea, in the valleys,
 Mountains, jungles and a desert area.

Fifty years later—recall, floating memories.

A handful of young enemy soldiers
 Lie silently in their death.
 Remove their weapons:
 Healthy, handsome, beautiful men.
 Speechless lips, eyes blank, faces without life
 Lying still on their soil. No expression.

My dead friends and these dead enemy soldiers
 should today be enjoying good times together.
 The Peace Corps would have been a greater good
 Working, playing cards and partying together.

War is not the answer. Love is.

Giving a war chant and a weapon.
 Without logic giving an enemy.
 Reality was death and destruction.
 Today we have graves, disabled, and PTSD.

ARTIST STATEMENT

This poem was submitted posthumously by longtime friend Mike P. Ferrick (also published in this issue). Don Rajotte passed away April 1, 2018 but served with Ferrick in the US Marine Corps, Mike Company 3rd Battalion 9th Marines in Viet Nam.

COMPETING INTERESTS

The author has no competing interests to declare.

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Rajotte, D. (2023). My Enemy. *Journal of Veterans Studies*, 9(2), pp. 16–17. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21061/jvs.v9i2.377>

Submitted: 12 July 2022 **Accepted:** 15 February 2023 **Published:** 14 March 2023

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