

## The Half-Century Mark By Mike Haas

Its' taken fifty years for the nation,  
To recognize what was done.

With the pain and loss of a generation,  
"Why" still haunts us from the public's end-run.  
Sent into battle at eighteen heralded by honor,  
Only to return with their heads hung low.

No one cared of the sacrifice or wrongful dishonor,  
With protests and slander accompanying the flow.  
Fifty years ago it ended but the pain never ceased,  
With friends and loved ones permanently scarred.

The flag draped coffins disembarked without press release,  
Quietly released back to their beginnings forever marred.

Today we salute you though long overdue,  
For the terror and loss of friends and youth.  
For fifty years Viet Nam Veterans were eschew,  
Until now when they are honored for their couth.

All these Veterans deserve our thanks,  
They followed the call of America with pride.

They have suffered for years lacking protection of their flanks,  
Now is the time to honor their sacrifices previously denied.