CARVED IN STONE

The Wall, dark as the night,
Built from blackest granite,
Forces me to remember that fight
Though I'd like to forget it.

As I walk along its path,
I see the wages of war.
Sixty thousand lost to Death's wrath,
Each of their names it bore.

Survivors come to heal,
And honor friends long dead.
For them the fighting still is real,
Forever raging in their heads.

It mourns those who died,
Before they had a chance to live.
It consoles those who for a loved one cried,
He to his country, the ultimate sacrifice did give.

This Wall is like no other
For it brings people together
Look within it and you should discover
Words of wisdom that will last forever.

"In war there is but one,
Death, who can take victory's wreath,
For even they who shout 'We Won!'
Have lost those lying in eternal defeat."

Sumit Kumar
Tabb High School, 1994

Hello, David

Hello David — my name is Dusty
I'm your night nurse
I will stay with you
I will check your vitals
every 15 minutes
I will document
inevitability
I will hang more blood
and give you something
for your pain
I will stay with you
and I will touch your face

Yes, of course
I will write your mother
and tell her you were brave
I will write your mother
and tell her how much you loved her
I will write your mother
and tell her to give your bratty kid sister
a big kiss and hug
what I will not tell her
is that you were wasted

I will stay with you
and I will hold your hand
I will stay with you
and watch your life
flow through your fingers
into my soul
I will stay with you
until you stay with me

Goodbye, David — my name is Dusty
I'm the last person
you will see
I'm the last person
you will touch
I'm the last person
who will love you

So long David, my name is Dusty
David - who will give me something
for my pain.

Dusty
1986
TO TOUCH A NAME

I have come from afar
To see this great stone.
I come as a friend
I don't come alone.

I see mothers meet sons
that death kept apart,
The love in their eyes
The pain in their hearts.

I hear tears from a son
who's daddy was not there
To play and to teach
to love and to care.

I feel lonely hearts cry
for the love of their life,
for the future forgotten,
for the hurt and the strife.

I have come from afar
to see this great wall
And somehow this stone
brings peace to all.

Jennifer Toffenetti
Tabb High School, 1996

Cast of Characters

"National Anthem" Ellyn Galloway, Christine Piché
Cyndi Ortiz, Anna Williams

Student
Adam Swann

New York Vet
Brian Thomasson

Angry Vet 1
Larry Barfoot

Susie
Christine Piché

Nancy
Dora Nelson

Vet 2
Carter Posey

Friend of Vet
Chris Tulip

Mother
Rebekah Nolan

Son
Chris LaFond

Diane
Patrice Seko

Wife
Ellyn Galloway

Daughter
Denise Ross

Anna
Anna Gardner

Nurse
Cyndi Ortiz

Fiancee
Anna Williams

Song
Christine Piché - “God Bless the USA”

Song
Christine Piché - “Taps”

Song
Ellyn Galloway - “If I Had Only Known”

Song
Christine Piché - “Wind Beneath My Wings”

Writers
Lindsay Beecroft, Paul Kirby, Sumit Kumar,
Tristine Reed, and Amanda Tate

Coordinator
Paul Kirby

Program Editor
Kathy Kirby

Credits
The Poem "Iello David" was left at the wall by anonymous author and is on display
in the Smithsonian American History Museum. Background pictures of "The Wall"
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and the Disabled American Veterans Chapter Two for their encouragement and support.

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Remembered In Black Marble

Cold as ice, the color of a raven’s wing,
The Memorial Wall, to the eye, a grand
and glorious thing,
But to the heart there is nothing sadder
than this memory of yesterday,
To know that each name represents a life
lost, a soul gone on it’s way,
Fighting for the right, they suffered
hardships untold,
Death was indiscriminate it took
the young as well as the old,
The glory of fighting for their country
is all they wanted then,
They faced torture and hurt during the fight,
patriotism being their only sin,
They were rewarded for their bravery
with death and heartache,
But they did it for America’s honor,
and another country’s sake,
These brave souls went to assist a nation in need,
And they got suffering and pain
for their commendable deed,
So, in the capitol of the United States stands
The Wall, an illustrious declaration of their gallantry
The impressive Wall, a testimonial of
bravery and devotion for all the world to see,
Enshrined in marble, cold and the color of
midnight, these names are given to us hence,
So that we will know of their bravery and
be glad in remembrance.

Katrina Davis
Richmond, VA
1998

A LETTER OF THANKS AND PRAISE

To all of you who went to fight
a war that no one understood,
To all of you that said
you would be home
But we knew you never would.
To all of you who left behind
a family and a home
To all of you who left to fight
for the pride of this great land.
I want to say thank you.

To all the parents who lost a son
in a war we had no business being in,
To all the women who lost their love
in a world full of sin,
To all the children with no daddys
because of our mistake,
Who are we to choose the lives
we are to take.

To all of you, the “lucky” ones
who were really not “lucky” at all.
Returning from hell
not able to tell
That there are still some of us who
wish to say thank you.

To all of you who stood up to those
who said you should not have gone,
To all of you who endured the ridicule
of those who did not understand,
To all of you who must live
one day at a time
Dealing with the horrors of the past
wondering how long it will last.

To all of you wondering who I am
I just want to say thank you.
What you did for me was
the greatest sacrifice one could make.
You did not suffer in vain,
For in me you remain
Forever in my heart.

Kim Goulet
Tabb High School, 1996
POW BRACELET

This metallic memorabilia
Hangs upon my arm
With the power and the glory
To make the strongest man disarm.
You are but a name,
And I know nothing of you
But the fact that you hang here
Shows me what you can do.
It's true, your personality
May not have been the best.
But you forgot about yourself
And died for all the rest.
I know the name, not the man
But still, it is a shrine
To all those who survived
The ones left behind.

Brent Henry
Tabb High School, 1996

REST IN PEACE ON THE WALL

I will never see your smile,
Or ever hear your voice.
It must have taken awhile
For you to make that choice.
How were you to know
That you would never come home?
You gave them a great show
And this is why I have come,
To admire you all
Who rest in peace on this wall.

Andy Mullins
Tabb High School, 1996

TO BE THE WALL

Panel after panel of
Black granite faces, expressions revealing
name after name, into oblivion.
THE WALL.
With a glance into the polished visage
So faithfully reflecting my own,
We are one. For a moment I know
What it is to be The Wall. I am given
The fear of a mother, losing son after
Son in the name of her country,
The faith of a lover that her someday
Is tomorrow,
The hope of a child that Daddy and
Big Brother are more than a myth,
The despair of a father, a brother, a son-desperate
For an end to the nightmare,
The purity of incessant joy upon safe return,
The heartbreaks of loved ones who will
Never know.
With a blink I am free, but never
Will I be the same, having gained
The painful realization on one
Having just lost the fog of naivete–
In one moment, with one glance
Into THE WALL.

Nicole Collins
Bruton High
1998

ENLIGHTENMENT

Tears fall from wounds never known
deluging words resonating.
echoes through depths of my mind
lines flowing from my lips...painfully
blood from gashes unseen.
Never known... understood?
As the death of one I loved
from letters upon a page.
How could I have known... until now?

Joanna Korolykyna
Grafton High
1998
FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN