

12 JAN 69

Master Sergeant Dee W. Nelson, for whom Pope flew in lieu of that day, composed a poem about the incident.

I lie and wonder not why I am here,
but where shall I go from here.
Perhaps my dreams for the beautiful things in life are there;
I feel them envelop me in peaceful serenity.

And I know I shall be brave, not from past achievements,
but in my pursuit with determination for my future life of
happiness and accomplishments.

I pray I shall always have strength not to wallow
in self-pity but to lend a helping hand along my
way in the future. For in all of us there is strength
where courage adds tenderness to the heart,
and in me may my strength turn aside
weakness in quest of courage in others.

If I could only march again, not in military cadency,
but as a leader of a proud people, then part of my dreams
for the beautiful things in life would be there.

I dream of leading myself with the ideals of
others in a parade exalting the reasons why
I was there.

And perhaps I shall turn and look behind to
discover I march not alone but am followed by
the multitude who seek the dreams of beautiful
things to come.

Because, after searching their hearts and
past heritage, they will have joined my
parade with pride and the discovery of why
I marched before.

Then another part of my dreams for the beautiful things in life would be there.

Even though part of me is gone, I would march with
pride toward the peaceful serenity, but not against
the ideals for which I marched before.

Yes, deep within me I know my personal loss is
far less than the needless loss of ideals others
have negligently allowed to be taken from them.

So I lie there without the limb that was lost,
doing what I believed in with knowledge and
pride; for the dreams I know will come true,
I would march again ...
IF ONLY I COULD MARCH AGAIN!

REQUESTED PERMISSION
TO USE ON 12P JUL 99
SEE NELSON FILE

To: (unknown), rlapointe
From: INTERNET:USAFPJ52@aol.com, INTERNET:USAFPJ52@aol.com
Date: 7/28/99, 12:21 PM
Re: Re: SEA PJ Book

You certainly have my permission to enter Tom Popes mission poem. Also Ruth Spitler wrote a poem called "The Rescuers" that was read at the last Ft Walton reunion and is a poem that says it all about commaraderie(sp). I have sent about everything I had to The pararescue museum. Will check out if I may have something to send you. You are doing a great job as you have in the past. I am proud of you and all the others I had a hand in training to be the best of the best.

----- Internet Header -----
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Received: from imo21.mx.aol.com (imo21.mx.aol.com [198.81.17.65])
by hpamgaaa.compuserve.com (8.8.8/8.8.8/HP-1.7) with ESMTTP id QAA24991
for <rlapointe@compuserve.com>; Wed, 28 Jul 1999 16:20:59 -0400 (EDT)
From: USAFPJ52@aol.com
Received: from USAFPJ52@aol.com
by imo21.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v22.4.) id fIRTa20497 (3988)
for <rlapointe@compuserve.com>; Wed, 28 Jul 1999 16:20:47 -0400 (EDT)
Message-ID: <1c92ffed.24d0c01f@aol.com>
Date: Wed, 28 Jul 1999 16:20:47 EDT
Subject: Re: SEA PJ Book
To: rlapointe@compuserve.com
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Mailer: AOL 4.0 for Windows 95 sub 21

DEE NELSON

18 JAN 69 WIA POPE