

# FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

Cathy Young, Editor



Dec. 27, 2013

## Editor's Comments

Christmas Day has passed, but certainly not the entire Christmas/New Year's SEASON, so it is our wish that you all continue the celebrations and may 2014 be your very best year ever!! Those of us who are in Alpine this time of year were treated to a white Christmas – not a big snow, but white, just the same. Remember to check the special hours for the next few days at the lodge – some have been reduced to allow our staff to enjoy time with their families, which is well-deserved. Once the hustle and bustle of the holidays passes, activities will resume, so be sure to take advantage of all the fun things happening here, even in the winter. Come out and support our restaurant operation – it can't work if you don't help, and our management team is doing a great job of making Alpine THE place to be. Please help them help us! Thank you, all.

If you have contributions for FWIW, please email them to me at [youngcl2@frontier.com](mailto:youngcl2@frontier.com). Or you may use the FWIW box on the counter in the lobby. The deadline to submit items for the next issue of FWIW is Wed., Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> (that's 2014) and the *next issue will be published on Fri., Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>*. Enjoy reading all the news in your little newsletter, which is available in the lobby or on Alpine Lake's website – [www.alpinelake.com](http://www.alpinelake.com); then click on FWIW and choose the date. Wishing you and yours a very HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

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## **TIMELY NOTICES & REMINDERS...**

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION – Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2013**

If you're procrastinating till the last minute, call the front desk at the lodge -- you can still get tickets to this year's celebration. To those of you who already got your tickets and plan to be there, have a great time and enjoy the food, music, dancing and fellowship with friends and neighbors. The Evergreene Room is beautiful with the decorations and extra lights, making this party one to remember for all who attend, and a happy way to start 2014.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

### **NEXT EGG DELIVERIES – Wed., Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, - approximately 11:30 AM**

James Stemple, our local farmer will be back delivering eggs during Needlework Session in the Rhododendron Room, after the break for Christmas & New Year's. Call or email Sheila Amato to order eggs – (304) 789-5555 or email: [brltrans@frontier.com](mailto:brltrans@frontier.com). Watch for additional 2014 dates in future issues of FWIW.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR



**Thoughts, Prayers & Thank You Messages**

*This section of FWIW is one of the best loved because it gives us an opportunity to keep up with our neighbors and friends by reporting good news as well as offering support when folks are going through difficult times. Thank you for passing along updates and news.*

**Don Kelly** passed away this past week, after battling cancer since he left Alpine for the winter. His brother Gerald wrote that he was so sick and suffering with the cancer, and he is at peace now. He thanks everyone in Alpine for their thoughts and prayers and asks that we all remember Don as he was when we last saw him. He requested no services. Rest in peace, Don – you will be missed.

Dick Ednock wrote to let us know that long-time resident **Frantz “Skip” Keppler** sustained a subdural hematoma, and is in Ruby Memorial Hospital for treatment. When attempting to close his garage door, it jumped off its rollers and struck him in the head. Please remember Skip in your prayers and if you’d like to send him a card, the address is: Ruby Memorial Hospital, Room 980, One Medical Center Drive, Morgantown, WV 26506. Get well soon, Skip.

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of **Nancy Glotfelty**, who lost her sister **Maggie Loughry**, 65, very suddenly last week. Some Alpine folks may know Nancy as owner of the Par Matt bowling lanes in Oakland. Nancy and Maggie both have relatives living in Alpine. Maggie was an avid bowler and she will be missed by all who knew her. (Thanks to Jo Gallagher for sharing this sad news with our community.)

Please continue to keep the folks we’ve mentioned here recently and others in your prayers for their continued healing and peace: **Cindy Vantries, Ann Harris, Dave Crane, Sonja Cuppett** (Charlotte Wiles’ niece) and Dominion Post carrier **Mr. Burns**. And for anyone dealing with health issues, family losses and other various challenges. If you know of someone who would like us to remember them in this section of FWIW, please let us know. God bless all.



**COMING SOON...**

Life returns to “normal” in Alpine, after reduced hours and activities during Christmas and New Year’s holiday season. Check out all the activities that are on-going during the winter months for those of us who call Alpine Lake home full-time – and make a resolution to get involved and have fun at the same time, if you aren’t already enjoying the benefits of living in our community. Newcomers to Alpine are invited to get involved and there are lots of things to do that offer opportunities to meet new folks, who will soon become friends. See you around the “compound”.

*Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store. What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!*  
– **Dr. Seuss: How the Grinch Stole Christmas**

## ***OF INTEREST TO OUR COMMUNITY***

### **GAME NIGHTS - Wednesday Nights - 7 PM. - Boathouse**

Game nights will continue through the winter months, when the fireplace in the boathouse just makes it a cozier evening of fun and games. Everyone is welcome...give it a try.

### **“JAM SESSIONS” – Wednesdays - 6:00 PM – Rhododendron Room**

This group of assorted musicians will continue to meet through the winter months. Just bring your instrument of choice and join in.

### **ROMEOS – Fridays – 8:00 AM - from Herman Mason**

**(Retired Old Men Eating Out) –**

We may have some new property owners who would enjoy this group. If you would like to check it out, send me an email and I'll add you to the list. Each week I email with where we'll be going to meet and eat each Friday morning. Send to: [hmas888@frontier.com](mailto:hmas888@frontier.com)

### **ALPUC NEWS – from Kim Mayne, ALPUC**

Our hope is that everyone had a wonderful Christmas with friends and family and are gearing up for a spectacular New Year!

As we are quickly approaching the New Year, please take time to consider your community involvement. ALPUC will have two board positions available in June. Any ***member in good standing*** can submit their name for nomination. Consider supporting your community by serving on the ALPUC Board. If you are interested, please contact any of the current board directors or the ALPUC office. Best wishes to you and yours from ALPUC!



### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – by Fred Isenock, ALPOA Board President**

From the Isenock family to yours – We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.



### ***COMING LATER ....(mark your calendars now & watch for details)***

#### **AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE – Thur., Jan. 30, 2014 – 12-6 PM**

The Terra Alta Civic Club will host this blood drive at the Terra Alta Ambulance Squad Building. To schedule an appointment call 1-800-733-2767, or online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). Helping save lives is always in season. Please give blood this winter. Thank you. (Jenni Mills)

**June, 2014 - ALPOA Board of Directors** – Start thinking about getting involved in your community by throwing your hat in the ring – 3 positions will be up for election this year. Watch for more information from Marty Wright's committee beginning in January. Get involved!

**Note: We will continue to remind folks of this very important issue in upcoming issues – please give it some serious consideration. Thank you.**

(Check FUTURE DATES on last page of FWIW for other important dates to remember & note)

*When 'round the moon there is a brough (halo) – the weather will be cold and rough.  
– Farmers' Almanac*



**FROM MANAGEMENT & STAFF**

**GENERAL MANAGER'S CORNER** – by *Freddie Harrison, GM*

We'll be having the New Year's Eve celebration at Alpine just a few days after this issue comes out, so if you are still thinking about coming, it isn't too late to get tickets. Just call the front desk. New hours of operation have been posted in the lodge, here in FWIW and on our website, so please check them out. We invite everyone to come to the lodge and enjoy the good food, including our 2 for \$20 menu items – 7 days a week from 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM in our lounge.

Wishing all of you a safe and happy New Year and all the best in 2014. Thanks for all your support.

**PROPERTY OWNER ACCOUNTS NEWS** – by *Linette Sines, Business Manager*

This time of year is fairly quiet which gives us time to catch up on things that sometimes take a backseat but are important, if not exciting. I would like to thank all the property owners who donated their time to work the employee Christmas Party. Thanks to the many volunteers, all employees were given the opportunity to enjoy and relax at our party. A special thanks goes out to the Property Owners' Committee for the generous gift of the Wal-Mart gift cards given to employees. Hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a great 2014.

***Reminder: The final quarterly payment for 2013/14 will be due on February 1<sup>st</sup>.***

**NEWS OF INTEREST** – by *Denise Moon, Dir. Group Sales/Marketing/Motel & Guest Services*

I would like to thank the housekeeping and front desk staff for the great job they have done this past year for Alpine Lake. The motel continues to increase each month over last year's numbers, and the staff has done a terrific job keeping up with customers' needs and showing that our community is a great place to visit and live.

It's not too late to get your New Year's Eve tickets. Call and reserve your tickets today at 800-752-7179, Ext. 0. Wishing everyone a Safe and Happy New Year!

***Reminder of special New Year's hours:***

New Year's Eve – Front Desk 8A-4P; Lakers' Lounge Opens 2P; NY Celebration 6P

New Year's Day – Front Desk 8A-4P; Serving Breakfast 8A-11A; Lakers' Lounge 11A-9P

***Please take a minute to read the "Christmas Poem", written by a Marine. We are attaching it to this issue of FWIW. It's a little long, but well worth the read. We received this as an email and it was so touching and thought-provoking, we wanted to share it here.***

***As we enjoy all the festivities of this beautiful Christmas season, it is fitting that we pause and remember all those who serve our country in the military making America safe for all of us. These young men and women have had their lives put on hold and turned upside-down, and life as they knew it will never be the same. Please stop, read and say a prayer of THANKS.***



**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***Editor’s Note: Not surprisingly, Committee reports were sparse for this issue. We hope our Chairs will get back to giving us articles about what they are doing, once the Christmas & New Year’s seasons have passed. Our hard-working Committees are the backbone of Alpine Lake and we thank them for their involvement in making our community the best it can be!***

**ECC COMMITTEE – by John Laing, Chair**

Remember, we are now on our winter – roughly every other week – schedule. If you need action by the ECC between meetings, call me at (410) 937-9174.

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – by Charlotte Wiles, Chair**

**2014 Alpine Calendars -** Are available at the front desk of the lodge NOW. First one to property owners is FREE. Be sure to get yours soon.

**BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE – by Barb Conway & Wilma Rumble, Co-Chairs**

We’re all just enjoying the beautiful decorations and lights at the lodge – inside and out – like everyone else. Our entire committee hopes you had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends, and we wish you and yours all the best in the coming year. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE – by Marty Wright, Chair**

We will elect three (3) new members to the ALPOA Board of Directors in June, 2014. Watch FWIW for detailed information concerning policy & procedures, beginning in January.

**PROPERTY OWNERS’ COMMITTEE – by Bernie & Birgit Stock, Co-Chairs**

We celebrate the end of 2013 by remembering all the fun things that happened at Alpine, and we look forward to next year with even more opportunities for fellowship, food (always) and making old and new property owners feel welcome in this place we call home.

We join others who encourage everyone to go to the lodge, have dinner, meet up with friends and make new ones – we need the support of ALL OF US to make our operation successful. Alpine is all about community, so please get involved and be part of it – you won’t be sorry for making the effort. Wishing you all a great 2014. – B&B

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**CELEBRATIONS**

If you’re celebrating a birthday or anniversary in January – we wish you all the best. Nobody asked to be remembered here this time. Just send an email if you’d like to have your special day recognized here. Thanks.

***“Life is like a 10-speed bicycle. Most of us have gears we never use!”***

***– Charles Shultz***



**HAPPENINGS AROUND THE LAKE & NEARBY...**

**SHUFFLEBOARD NEWS** – from Bob Bayer, Shuffleboard “Commissioner”

**Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>** – We had 26 mostly “regular” shufflers turn out to play. Mostly full-time “spectator” Jim Ehardt gets recruited to partner with newcomer Anthony Amato. 6 day-a-week wife pairs up with Marilyn with one mission in mind...beat Thursday night wife & Bob. The once “dreaded” Youngs who had been looking more “dreadful” this year, made a nice 4-game run through the losers’ bracket to reclaim a little “dreadedness”. And Charlotte gets flagged for “excessive celebration”! Highlights include 8pt & 6pt turns for Bob, 6pts for Sheila, lots of 5pt turns: Kathy Andes twice, Sheila twice Bob twice, Kay, John, Cathy Young & Jim Rocchi. Too many 4 pointers to name, other than Loring back-to-back same game. With no Wayne tonight, lowlights were minimal: Merrie Lee & Tom followed up their 1pt performance from last week with a shutout this week (some people will do anything to get their name in the paper!). Results to follow.

**Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>**- We have 22 shufflers with one newcomer: Jim Rocchi’s “feisty” sister, Mary Ann Ponvillo. When I told her I was pairing her up with Bernie Howe, she asked me if he was “dangerous”. I told her he probably just knows enough to be. This week the Youngs are back to looking more “dreadful” than “dreaded” as Loring was seen shaking his bush early and often. Quote of the night: Kathy Andes via Bob via Ginger Tucker: “If you can’t bump anyone else, you might as well bump yourself.” I’ll just leave that one on its own merit. Tonight’s “excessive celebration” award goes to Kay, as she gets her wish with a victory over team Charlotte & Bob on Marilyn’s last night before leaving for the winter. The highlights include: 6pts by Bob, Bernie Stock with a hanger, Marilyn in the afore-mentioned win, and Mike for the final win of the night. 5pt turns included Jim Rocchi with a hanger, Cathy Young and Sally in the same game, and Kay for the win that led to her penalty; 2pt shots are not normally mentioned in the “highlight” section, but Merrie Lee doubled her output for the season and Janice Bucklew won their 1<sup>st</sup> game with her 2-pointer. Tonight’s only lowlight that was also featured in the highlights: Bernie Stock’s 6-pointer with a hanger was negated by Mike’s two 4-pointers for the “Thank you Jesus” win for the Andes’. We took the day after Christmas off and will skip next week, too for New Year’s. **Join us Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>** for the most fun you can have here at Alpine...with your clothes on. 6PM every Thursday through the rest of winter. Be there or be square!

Results:

- Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>:** 1<sup>st</sup> place: Charlotte & Bob
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Sheila & Tony Amato
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Cathy & Loring Young

- Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>:** 1<sup>st</sup> place: Kathy & Mike Andes
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Birgit & Bernie Stock
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Marilyn & Kay

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**NEEDLEWORK GROUP NEWS – Each Wednesday – 10 AM – Rhododendron Room**

FYI – Because Christmas Day and also New Year’s Day both fell on Wednesday this year, this group **will not meet until Wed., Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>**. Everyone is invited to come about 10:00 AM to the Rhododendron Room to work on individual hand projects – or just to visit with friends and neighbors and catch up on what happened while we were on hiatus. Remember, we meet all year and it’s a great place to meet folks if you’re new to Alpine.

**Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>** is also when our local farmer, James Stemple will be back with fresh eggs.



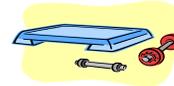


**More HAPPENINGS AROUND THE LAKE & NEARBY...**

**FITNESS CORNER – Compliments of the AM Aerobics Group**

Aerobics classes have been suspended for the rest of December, to give everyone a chance to enjoy Christmas and New Year’s and all the fun activities leading up to these holidays. Our last class was held Wed. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, and we have had full classes all year, which is great. Our leader, Sue Thompson hosted her annual Aerobics Christmas party at her home today – nothing unlucky about it being Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> for this group. We are in the “lucky” category as we encourage each other and actually have fun working to stay healthy.

Remember, if Preston County Schools are closed or delayed for inclement weather, there will be no class. Otherwise, plan to join this fun group of neighbors and friends on Mon./Wed./Fri. at 9AM for an hour of exercise. We’ll pick up classes again in January – so see you all next year.



*Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more but those giving more.*

***OUR NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES***

**DONATIONS NEEDED – OAKLAND CIVIC CLUB PROJECT – by Jo Gallagher**

I will be collecting items for these projects into Spring 2014.

Suggested items for the Garrett County Lighthouse *Treasure Chest Store* are: audio books (tapes or CDs), baskets, CDs, new cosmetics, children’s toys, plush animals, holiday items/decorations, jewelry, men’s ties, belts, mugs, kitchen gadgets, books, pictures, purses, wallets, artwork, frames, plaques, puzzle books, scarves, tools, etc. Please, no clothes other than small items like ties, socks, gloves, hats, etc.

With the *Purses of Promise* project, the Dove Center will be able to give abused women purses filled with shampoo, facial tissues, wallet, toothbrush, new lipstick and many other personal items. You may donate a purse and/or any number of travel-sized personal items to fill the purse. Please place your donations in the appropriately marked box just inside the front door of the lodge. If you have any questions, please call Jo Gallagher at (304) 789-3189. Thank you.

**Note: We will continue to run this article as a reminder that the need is ongoing.**

**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION® – from Linette Sines**

**Ongoing Reminder:** Please save those box tops from so many products you already buy. Just drop them off at the front desk for either Linette Sines or Freddie Harrison. We can help benefit our local Terra Alta School with this project. Check out the flyer on the basement bulletin board or website for more information: [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)

**KINGWOOD VFD MONTHLY BREAKFAST** – Next date is **Sunday, Jan. 12, 2014** – **7 AM-1 PM** - \$8./person. Meet your friends, eat hearty, and help support a worthy cause.

*If you aren’t wearing a smile, you’re only half dressed.*



**FREE CLASSIFIED ADS - "A Service for our Readers"**

**Editor's Note:** Ads will run in 4 issues, and then be deleted, unless new ones are resubmitted. This will be accomplished by inserting the date the ad was first run, with new ads at the top of the listing.

**Service ads requesting longer-term might consider using the bulletin board at the lodge in the basement hallway or the Beautification Committee's Alpine Community Directory.** This Directory is published annually at a very nominal fee for advertisers and is a valuable resource to residents looking for services they need because it is distributed free at the front desk to anyone requesting a copy.

**We appreciate your help to make this section of FWIW beneficial to our readers. Thank you.**

**For Sale:** Oval/Round Oak table with 6 chairs. \$350. Call: (304) 789-5557 (12/27)

**Tax Services:** We provide a wide spectrum of services, including but not limited to, tax preparation for individuals, businesses and estates. We also provide tax planning (including gas leases) and estimated payments payroll and all related taxes & reports, W2s, 1099s, financial statements Public Service Commission (PSC) annual reports, Business Personal Property Returns, Raffle & Bingo annual reports, non-profit procedures, and sales & use tax returns. Call Dorinda Kisner, CPA PLLC – (304) 789-6082 or email: [Dorinda@kisnercpa.com](mailto:Dorinda@kisnercpa.com). (12/27)

**Pet Sitting** – Call Kay – (304) 789-2111. (12/13)

**For Sale:** New in Box – Pro Lift for lawn mowers, most lawn tractors and snow blowers. Rugged steel construction, raises the unit up to 22" in height; lifts up to 350# per axle, easy to assemble; has an adjustable wheel span of up to 48"; safety lock; rubber padded platform prevents scratches; non-slip foot pedal allows effortless lifting; hydraulic power; easy to maneuver and adjustable for a wide variety of machines. Cost \$200/Sell \$170 OBO. Call: (304) 789-6520 (12/13)

**Services:** House concerts: dinner parties, parties, get-togethers in your home. Contact Ron Rogers at (410) 790-4169. (11/29)

**Services:** Let it Snow! No driveway too big or too small – "If you've got snow, call Joe!" Small \$30; Medium \$55; Large \$95. Shoveling extra. Call me at Home: 304) 789-6838 or Cell:1-304-777-7212. (11/15)

**For Sale:** DESA –Propane non-vented working fireplace insert 24" w/artificial log set & extra parts. No elec. or exhaust pipe needed; has built-in thermostat. Easy hook-up to your propane line; only used 2 seasons; works well. \$95. Call (304) 789-6520 or email [mr-p@frontier.com](mailto:mr-p@frontier.com). (11/1)

**Services:** Rentahubby handyman services has changed phone numbers due to a change of cell phone carrier. Anyone looking to schedule handyman work in the Spring of 2014 should call the new number, effective immediately. Old Cell: (301) 616-6523 – New Cell: (813) 545-7969 Email address has not changed: rentahubbyhandymanservices @gmail.com (11/1)

*Some of us use weak thread when we mend our ways.*



**Dates to Remember - (Use this handy summary of dates to put on your calendar now)**

Please note that the following events occur weekly on the day and time noted:

Mon., Wed. & Fri. - 9-10 AM – Aerobics Classes, Lodge, Allegheny Room (**Returns in 2014**)

Mondays – 10 AM- 3 PM – Sew Together, Boathouse

Wednesdays - 10:00 AM – Needlework Club - Rhododendron Room, Lunch follows

Wednesdays – 4-7 PM – Ladies’ Night, ½ price appetizers/drinks – Lakers’ Lounge

Wednesdays – 6:00 PM – “Jam Sessions”, Rhododendron Room

Wednesdays -- 7:00 PM – Property Owners Game Night, Boathouse

Thursdays – 10 AM-Noon – Braille Workshop – Rhododendron Room

Thursdays – 6 PM – Shuffleboard – Above Lakers’ Lounge (Come for dinner specials)

Fridays 1-4 PM – Artist/Craft Group, Rhododendron Room, Lodge

**Note: Dump Open:** Tue/Thur 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM & Sat. 7:00 AM-4:00 PM

**T.A. Recycling Plant Open:** Tue.-Fri. 7 AM – 4PM, and Sat. 8 AM until Noon

**Also – monthly events:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month 7 AM – 1 PM – Kingwood VFD Breakfast

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month – **9 AM – ALPUC Board Meeting (see note below)**

**10 AM – ALPOA Community Board Meeting**

**NEXT ALPUC/ALPOA MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS – MARCH 15, 2014**

**COMING EVENTS:**

Tue., Dec. 31 – New Year’s Eve Celebration (see flyers posted)

Wed. Jan. 1, 2014 – HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Wed., Jan. 8 – 10:00 AM – Next Needlework Group Session, Rhododendron Room

Wed., Jan. 8 – 11:30 AM – Next Egg Deliveries, Rhododendron Room

Wed., Jan. 8 – Noon – Deadline for Next FWIW

Thur., Jan. 9 – 6:00 PM – Next Shuffleboard League, above Lakers’ Lounge

**Fri., Jan. 10 – Noon – Next FWIW Published**

Sun., Jan. 12 – 7 AM – 1 PM – Kingwood VFD Breakfast, Kingwood

**FUTURE EVENTS:** (Please put on your calendar now – don’t miss a thing)

Thur. Jan. 30 – 12-6 PM – Red Cross Blood Drive, Terra Alta Ambulance Squad Bldg.

Sat., Feb. 1 – Deadline for Final Quarterly AL Assessment Payment for 2013/14

June, 2014 – ALPOA Board of Directors Election – 3 positions open

June, 2014 – ALPUC Board of Directors Election – 2 positions open

***PARTING SHOT - The difference between TRY and TRIUMPH is just a little 'umph'.***

## CHRISTMAS POEM (written by a U.S. Marine)

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, HE LIVED ALL ALONE,  
IN ONE BEDROOM HOUSE MADE OF PLASTER AND STONE.  
I HAD COME DOWN THE CHIMNEY WITH PRESENTS TO GIVE,  
AND TO SEE JUST WHO IN THIS HOME DID LIVE.

I LOOKED ALL ABOUT, A STRANGE SIGHT I DID SEE,  
NO TINSEL, NO PRESENTS, NOT EVEN A TREE.  
NO STOCKING BY MANTLE, JUST BOOTS FILLED WITH SAND,  
ON THE WALL HUNG PICTURES OF A FAR DISTANT LAND.

WITH MEDALS AND BADGES, AWARDS OF ALL KINDS,  
A SOBER THOUGHT CAME THROUGH MY MIND.  
FOR THIS HOUSE WAS DIFFERENT, IT WAS DARK AND DREARY,  
I FOUND THE HOME OF A SOLDIER, ONCE I COULD SEE CLEARLY.

THE SOLDIER LAY SLEEPING, SILENT, ALONE, CURLED UP ON THE FLOOR  
IN THIS ONE BEDROOM HOME.  
THE FACE WAS SO GENTLE, THE ROOM IN SUCH DISORDER,  
NOT HOW I PICTURED A UNITED STATES SOLDIER.

WAS THIS THE HERO OF WHOM I'D JUST READ?  
CURLED UP ON A PONCHO, THE FLOOR FOR A BED?  
I REALIZED THE FAMILIES THAT I SAW THIS NIGHT,  
OWED THEIR LIVES TO THESE SOLDIERS WHO WERE WILLING TO FIGHT.

SOON 'ROUND THE WORLD, THE CHILDREN WOULD PLAY,  
AND GROWNUPS WOULD CELEBRATE A BRIGHT CHRISTMAS DAY.  
THEY ALL ENJOYED FREEDOM EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR,  
BECAUSE OF THE SOLDIERS, LIKE THE ONE LYING HERE.

I COULDN'T HELP WONDER HOW MANY LAY ALONE,  
ON A COLD CHRISTMAS EVE IN A LAND FAR FROM HOME.  
THE VERY THOUGHT BROUGHT A TEAR TO MY EYE,  
I DROPPED TO MY KNEES AND STARTED TO CRY.

THE SOLDIER AWAKENED AND I HEARD A ROUGH VOICE,  
'SANTA DON'T CRY, THIS LIFE IS MY CHOICE;  
I FIGHT FOR FREEDOM, I DON'T ASK FOR MORE,  
MY LIFE IS MY GOD, MY COUNTRY, MY CORPS.

THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER AND DRIFTED TO SLEEP,  
I COULDN'T CONTROL IT, I CONTINUED TO WEEP.  
I WEPT FOR HOURS, SO SILENT AND STILL AND WE BOTH SHIVERED  
FROM THE COLD NIGHT'S CHILL.

I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE ON THAT COLD, DARK, NIGHT,  
THIS GUARDIAN OF HONOR SO WILLING TO FIGHT.  
THEN THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER, WITH A VOICE SOFT AND PURE, WHISPERED,  
'CARRY ON SANTA, IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY, ALL IS SECURE.'

ONE LOOK AT MY WATCH, AND I KNEW HE WAS RIGHT.  
'MERRY CHRISTMAS MY FRIEND, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT.'