

Warrior's Wife

by Suzanne Austin-Hill

She waits patiently while he trains
 excitedly to see him graduate
 tearfully while he's deployed once more
(and hopes with desperation to see him return-alive. whole. in his right mind.

She waits proudly while he's in school
 admiringly to see him graduate
 hesitantly for the next ... and the next ... and the next move

 graciously until he retires
(and as he maneuvers the transition from military to civilian life, she is faithful)

The Military Wife waits bravely in lobbies, examination rooms, and at bedsides
 fearfully as he enters the testing facility alone and
 sadly as she is told to social-distance from their car.

Suzanne S. Austin-Hill, Ph.D., is a retired, internationally recognized mathematics educator. She has written two hundred-plus poems. As early as 2012, her more soulful forms of expression were published in *The News of Sun City Center/The News of Kings Point*, *Lifestyles AFTER 50*, *Shade in the Sunshine State Reflections on Segregation in Florida*, Vol. 1, and *TattleTALES* (an anthology). Other literary credits include the magazine, *Mature Living*. Her work is featured regularly in the online magazine, *Of Poets & Poetry*, sponsored by the Florida State Poets Association, Inc (FSPA). Suzanne's work has received recognition by the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Her poems have been awarded a First Place and Certificates of Merit by the FSPA. She won first and second places in two Lit Wit Humorous Poetry Contests sponsored by the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries. For Suzanne, poetry is an ointment, an elixir and a tonic that pours out from her heart. Her first book of poetry, *Sixty-seven Pages from the Heart*, was published by Kindle Direct Publishing in December 2019 and includes the poem, "Soldiers' Return."