

Reflections on Independence Day

by William C. Blasengame

in my golden years I reflect on the times
of school yard pranks and patriotic rhymes
I pledge allegiance and oh say can you see
were etched in my mind but had little meaning to me

it was years later in my prime
that Uncle Sam called and said it was my time
I raised my hand and made the oath
to God and Country and to defend both

the training was hard and tested my sand
the military is right they turned a boy into a man

the allegiance we pledge and anthems we sing
take on new meaning as the bombs fly and bullets ping
the warriors that fight are the bravest I have met
standing in the gap with weapon, sword and helmet

we take for granted the freedoms we enjoy
not considering the sacrifices made by many a girl and boy
I understand now what I missed so many years back
freedom is precious and always under attack

celebrate the 4th with pride in your heart
but remember the warriors for the sacrifices and their part
they should be considered a national treasure
some gave all and the last full measure