

Empty Boots....

*By Richard Preston ~ 3/9/02
3rd Battalion, 4th Marines
Vietnam, 1966-67*

*Walk a mile in another man's boots?
I don't think it's possible.
Yeah, we have pounded the same ground, but each journey is different.*

*In Vietnam, each man walked his own destiny.
Destiny maps out longevity.*

*Unlike men,
Boots were alike for sure --
Black leather,
Green canvas,
Caked with red mud.*

*But the man, The Soldier,
Often lay Caked with red Blood.*

*The Warrior experiences War
War will suffocate the experience of life.*

*Boots are removed.
The journey has ended for the man.
Even so,
His boots remain.*

*Age has no effect.
His journey continues in the hearts
Of the Brothers of war.*

*The boots are empty.
But our hearts are full.*

*We continue to walk in sorrow.
Alas, We could not walk in freedom
If not for the empty boots.*