

Homecoming

Soldiers draped in country's flag
as if prideful symbols hadn't already done enough
as if parents hearts could soften to bugle's blare
as if any beyond those gathered truly cared
as if any even noticed beyond the **HEAD**lines to the story with your name
as if your high school girlfriend who you'd joined to impress ever noticed you were gone
as if the morning frost had not caught you drunk and drowsing on the job
as if you hadn't been clinging to survival at the thin edge of your murderers sardonic grin
as if you hadn't smelled your own flesh burning in the thick black air of atrocity
as if soldiers draped in country's flag were not more sad than heroic