

**Invocation Poem read by Pastor Frank Orzio
On March 16, 2010**

**(UMAVA Chaplain <http://umava.org/>) and Vietnam Combat Veteran
At "Welcome Back Home Vietnam Veterans Day" with City of Brea
<http://fc-oc.org/speakers/frank-n-orzio>**

PREAMBLE'

**WE ARE HARD PRESSED ON EVERY SIDE,
YET NOT CRUSHED,...
WE ARE PERPLEXED,...BUT NOT IN DESPAIR,..**

**THESE WORDS WERE "WRITTEN" OVER
2000 YRS. AGO BY THE APOSTLE PAUL,...
IN HIS SPIRITUAL WARFARE BATTLE!**

**I WAS ASKED IF I WAS A HEROE,...
NO , BUT I SERVED WITH MANY...
I HUMBLY REPLIED...**

**BUT THESE MEN TOO,.. WILL ALSO SAY,..
WE ARE NOT HEROES,..
THE REAL HEROES DID NOT RETURN HOME,..
THE REAL HEROES SACRIFICED THEIR LIFE..
FOR "GOD AND COUNTRY" SO WE MIGHT BE FREE..**

**IT IS WRITTEN,.. "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD,..
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON"...**

**THRU THE AGES,.. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT "JESUS" DIED
TO FREE US FROM SIN,..
AND AS GOD GAVE UP HIS SON,..OUR COUNTRY ALSO
GIVES UP HER SONS,....**

**SO AS JESUS DIED TO FREE US FROM SIN,..
OUR VETERANS DIE TO KEEP US FREE...**

**TONIGHT,.. WE ARE BEING HONORED,.. HONORED BY THIS
GREAT CITY OF "BREA",...**

**A CITY, PROUD OF HER VETERANS' SERVICE,..
A CITY PROUD OF OUR SACRIFICE...
SHE NEVER TURNED HER BACK ON US,..
SHE NEVER SHUT HER DOOR'S..**

**HER MAYOR,.. "RON GARCIA" HIMSELF
A VIET-NAM VETERAN ALSO
SERVED WITH PRIDE..**

**AS I LOOK UP AT OL' GLORY,..FLYING
SO PROUDLY, AS IF TO SAY,...**

**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY DO I STAND,..
NEVER FALLEN IN ENEMY'S HANDS..
FLYING PROUD AND FREE IN OUR
AMERICAN LAND...**

**AND TODAY, I STILL GET SADDENED, AS O'L GLORY IS DRAPED OVER A FALLEN
BROTHER,..AS IF TO SAY FAREWELL,..**

**THEN SHE IS FOLDED SO GENTLY AND GIVEN TO A FAMILY FROM A "GRATEFUL
NATION"**

A NATION THAT MUST NEVER TURN HER BACK ON HER VETERANS AGAIN..

**THIS BAND OF "BROTHERS" ,.THESE BRAVE
MEN,..MEN WHO STOOD BY ME IN COMBAT,..
MEN WHO STOOD BY ME WHEN I FELL,..**

**WE WERE YOUR FATHERS,..YOUR BROTHERS,..
YOUR SONS,..**

**SOME OF US LOST OUR SIGHT, SO YOU MIGHT
SEE THE BEAUTY OF FREEDOM,**

**SOME OF US LOST OUR ARMS, OUR HANDS..
SO THAT YOU MIGHT HUG, OR HOLD SOMEONE CLOSE,..**

**SOME OF US SACRIFICED OUR LEGS, SO THAT
YOU MIGHT WALK THE STREETS OF "FREEDOM**

**IT IS TIME ,..IT IS TIME TO MOVE ON,..
TIME TO "BURY THE BEAST",...
TIME TO PUT THE ENEMY THAT WAS IN US
TO REST,...**

**AND ALSO REMEMBER OUR FAMILY'S SACRIFICE,..AS THEY TOO WERE
"CASUALTIES OF WAR"**

**WE,.. THESE "BAND OF BROTHERS" ,.WE FINALLY
ARE "WELCOMED HOME" TO A GRATEFUL NATION,..**

**TODAY WE CAN,.. WE MUST,.. AS "BROTHER'S"
TAKE THE FIRST STEP AS THIS HEALING IS
THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF OUR LIFE..**

TODAY,.. WE ARE NO LONGER "SHADOW SOLDIERS"

**AND WE MUST REMEMBER,..
IT WAS BY GODS GRACE..
THAT WE ARE FREE...TAKE
GOD OUT OF OUR COUNTRY..
AND YOU TAKE AWAY OUR FREEDOM!**

I CLOSE THIS DEDICATION,.. THIS MEMORIAL BY SAYING..

**YESTERDAY IS HISTORY,.. TOMORROW IS A MYSTERY,..
TODAY IS THE "PRESENT",..
A PRESENT GIVEN TO US BY OUR VETERANS,..
A GIFT,.. SO BLESSED BY GOD...**

**LOOK INTO A VETERAN'S EYES,.. SEE THE REFLECTION
OF YOURSELF,.. CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT WE SACRIFICED
FOR YOU?..**

LOVE US AS WE LOVE YOU,.. AS WE LOVE OUR COUNTRY!.

I AM A "VIET-NAM VETERAN",.. I AM A WARRIOR!..

**ON BEHALF OF US,.. YOUR HUMBLE VETERANS,.. WE THANK YOU MR.
MAYOR,.. CITY COUNCIL.. AND THE PATRIOTIC CITIZENS OF THIS GREAT
AMERICAN CITY OF BREA,..**

**AND TO OUR GOVENOR
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGAR,.. WHO MADE THIS DAY OF "REDEMPTION"
POSSIBLE**

GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU,..

**AND MAY WE ALWAYS BE ABLE TO SAY,..
"MAY GOD BLESS AMERICA!"**