

Michael

By Gail, Sept 10th 2008

Michael, the gentle soul.
So caring, so soft inside.
Business on the outside,
Talking with people,
Coming up with solutions
To make life better
A little better
For the common man.

Always thinking,
Always dreaming,
A tweak here,
A shift there,
A better world
We will create,
And live in harmony
And prosperity.

Worthy are you,
Michael my brother.
Worthy to call yourself
Teacher, Politician, Broker,
Friend, Father, Husband,
Brother, Son, Counselor,
You are all these and more,
You are a worthy man.

Hard life, complicated,
By Viet Nam
And Agent Orange.
By deals and dissolutions,
By betrayals and losses.
Still it made you determined
Through the bitterness
To succeed and play fair.

You love people.
And to care for them.
To find solace
For their woes.
Your mind is sharp
You know how to please,
Negotiate, convince,
To wheedle and tease.

Your heart is so big
It wants to burst
With all the ideas
Which ones to do first?
New this, new that,
Invest in this shore,
Come work here and there,
And live well forevermore.

Your stories are real
So honest and true
That they capture the ear
And heart & mind too.
No mincing words
Just everyday facts
Of places you've been
And how you came back.

I'd love to have
A book made of them
To share with the world
Of the time when
You were on the river
In U-boats and war
Your job was to deliver
Supplies, aid and more.

God is close to you
Always in your heart
Jesus sits by your side
Never daring to part.
Your faith is strong
In more than we see
You know that there is
A depth to belief.

So, I know in your passing
You will smile and look down
On all of us left behind
Weary, crying and with frowns
You will miss us, but not as much
As we will miss you
Because you know that you did
All you were meant to do.

You loved us
You listened
You controlled
With wisdom
You cared
You assisted
You gave
With your heart.

That's what counts, my friend
The heart and the head
Must be connected
If love is to spread
And make the world a better place
For all of us here,
Then you lived a Great Life,
Michael, my dear.

You are egalitarian
You work with all
To create a humanity
Of brotherhood without walls.
Like our ancestors you strive
For the best at the time
And know that together
We can take that great climb.

So, thank you Michael
For coming in with me
To live this life together
And have the same tree.
We learned a lot from each other
And from good ol' Mom and Dad
I thank you for loving me
With every breath that you have.

In gratitude,
With love,
Your sister,
Gail