

A Soldier's Blues

Jack McCourt – May 2020

Here comes the Vet
who survived Nam's Tet
back in sixty-eight
A Marine who fought
from Khe Sanh to Da Lat
who has reasons to hate
But all he dreams about
almost every day
is a way to go back
Erase the vile nightmares,
with all his fears
as he relives flashbacks

**God forbid you ever have to tread miles
in a soldier's boots
Cause then you'd know what it's like
to wear a soldier's blues
Then you really might know what's it's like
Then you really might know what's it's like
Then you really might know what's it's like
Then you really might know what's it's like**

Joe was an Army Ranger
never out of danger
scouting outside the wire

On a Somali patrol
in that Mogadishu hole
he came under fire
It wasn't long before
the shit went bad
just south of FUBAR
with RPGs and IEDs
hidden in burned out cars

Lots of soldiers died
and their brothers cried
in that bloody melee
They say Joe was lucky
'cause he made it back
to the FOB that day
Still his PTSD
and the TBI
get in the way

**God forbid you ever have to relive
all that deja vu
Cause then you'd know what it's like
to wear a soldier's blues
Then you really might know what's it's like
Then you really might know what's it's like
Then you really might know what's it's like
Then you really might know what's it's like**

Then came nine-eleven
not a sign from heaven
more like a sign from hell
The world changed that day
in almost every way
by a jihadist cell
Planes were crashing
good people dying
while the Twin Towers fell
New York's finest went in
some never came out
sacrificing pell-mell
I lost my good friend, Ken
it was his time, his end
on that fateful hour
But I'll always conclude
he ran forward, imbued
with courage, empowered

**God forbid you have to race ahead in
first-responder's shoes
Cause then you'd know what it's like
to bear their blues
Then you really might know what's it's like
Then you really might know what's it's like
Then you really might know what's it's like
Then you really might know what's it's like**

Where would be all be
without the heroes we see
who put their lives on the line
They are expertly trained
Save us again and again
They do it all the time
Think of Pat Tillman
who in Afghanistan
sacrificed it all
He was an American hero
in the battlefield
and the field of football
God only knows
where these folks come from
but they always do.
From the time of
Pearl Harbor, Normandy
Al Anbar and Kabul

**God forbid you ever have to kill and make them pay the dues
Cause then you'd really know what it's like
to live the soldier's blues
Then you really might know what's it's like
Then you really might know what's it's like
Then you really might know what's it's like
Cause then you'd have to live the soldier's blues**