



# WAR HOME STORY

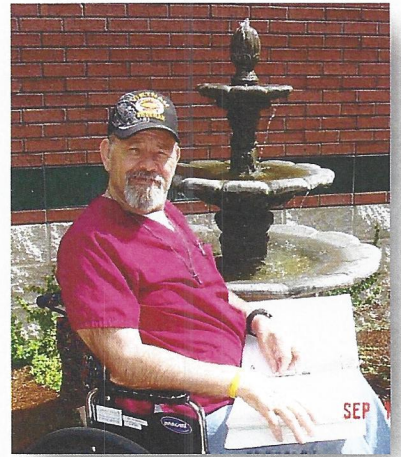
## #6

Submitted by  
Christy Callens, LCSW  
Southwest Louisiana War Veterans Home

### Warrior of Faith

Donald Rougeau is one of our bright and shining stars here at SW LA War Veterans Home in Jennings. A war-time combat Vietnam Veteran, he is also a valiant prayer warrior with the spirit of God so powerful in his life, that even a life-threatening stroke cannot dampen

the anointing. At 67, he came to us earlier this year as a transfer from a private nursing home in the Lake Charles area following a severe stroke he suffered 4 years ago. In spite of the set-back, Donald has maintained an indomitable fighting spirit. His long road back from near total paralysis is one of absolute miraculous steady improvement. Some may say it is because of his perseverance, some the quality of care, but he and I agree that it is the hand of God that is helping him with his progress. Donald, a man of faith, and has written some of the most beautiful and profoundly moving poetry that I have read. He does not claim personal credit for the prose, but says it is from the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit. Donald does not apologize for his faith, and hopes that through his writings other veterans will find hope, inspiration, and most importantly of all a personal relationship with their creator. Following is just some of his over 200 poems he is working on publishing.



DONALD ROUGEAU

### A Butterfly's Touch

I felt the touch of a butterfly,  
So softly on my skin,  
I know it was God's way of telling me,  
That I'm in this life to win,  
With Him standing beside me,  
There's no way I can lose,  
I can call upon His Holy Spirit,  
Any time I choose.  
When life starts getting tough,  
When things aren't going my way,  
I know the only thing I have to do,  
Is get down on my knees and pray.  
His Spirit will then come to me,  
He'll take me by the hand,  
He will protect me and help me stand tall,  
As I walk through this evil land.  
We are weak but He is strong,  
Its wish to help us out,  
When something or someone has hurt us so bad  
That the ace in our heart does shout.  
If we are receptive and invite Him into our heart,  
All we need do is trust Him, And He will do His part.  
Only God can make it better,  
When we trust in Him you see,  
For He is our strength and He is our hope,  
And forever will He be.

### This Incredible Gift

Praise and thanks be unto God,  
For giving me this incredible gift,  
He allows me to write His words in rhyme,  
That give His people a lift.  
I never quite know just what I'm going to write,  
But when I hear His Spirit speak to me,  
My pencil does take flight.  
I gather His words in poetry,  
In rhythm and in rhyme,  
I never know when it's going to happen,  
But of course it's right on time.  
So many times we need to hear,  
What the good Lord has to say,  
And oft times He elects me,  
To bring His words their way.  
I'm honored to be the tool He uses,  
As He channels from above,  
He loans to me these wonderful words,  
That tell of His awesome love.  
I don't really know why He chose me,  
To speak in such a beautiful way,  
But I know as long as I give Him the glory,  
His gift is here to stay.

By Donald Rougeau "Words from the holy Spirit, Praise and thanks unto God"

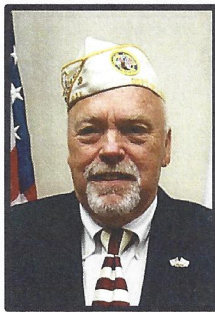
## MSO Van Visit - Houma, LA - June 2012





# LAW TALK

Charles "Tex" Stevenson  
Department Judge Advocate



## MEDICAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

One day a loved one may ask you to make medical decisions on their behalf, if they are unable to do so. Although you may have heard of a Medical Power of Attorney, you may not know what it is really about. Unlike a Durable Power of Attorney that would grant authority to make financial decisions on their behalf, a Medical Power of Attorney would grant you broad authority to make medical decisions on their behalf. A Medical Power of Attorney is also known as a Health Care Power of Attorney or a Health Care Proxy. It is a type of advance medical directive.

Another type of advance medical directive is a Living Will. The Living Will is the directive that declares a person's end of life decisions. On the other hand, the Medical Power of Attorney is an advance directive that appoints another person - an agent - to make medical decisions if the person signing the directive is unable to do so. The person signing the directive - the principal - can also appoint an alternate agent if their first choice is unable or unwilling to act. Like a General Power of Attorney, the Medical Power of Attorney is an authentic act in Louisiana, which means that the directive must be signed in the presence of two witnesses and before a Notary Public.

Whenever you enter a hospital for care you are asked if you have an advance medical directive or Living Will. You should have one before an event happens that triggers its need, such as a sudden heart attack or some other unexpected health crisis. You may not be able to sign one in those situations. As long as the principal is not in a terminal condition or in a permanently unconscious state, the agent can generally make the health care decisions. Otherwise the Living Will would control those end of life decisions.

Many factors influence a principal's consideration of an agent in a Medical Power of Attorney. If the agent lives far away, that would not be suitable. A person who knows the principal, his desires for health care treatment, and is of the same religious persuasion would be an ideal pick. As always recommended in this column, one should consult his family attorney for the specifics of these advance directives, who would also have copies of the documents, and could inform your doctor of the directive.



"And this is my buddy Tex. Tex is from Louisiana. We call him Tex 'cause he don't like being called Louise!"



## Saying Goodbye to an Old Friend

By Dyton O. J. Ruiz,  
Commander-Chapter #33

Although I was glad to be back from a most wonderful two weeks in Alberta and The Yukon, Canada, it was also a time of saddened heart for me because I had to tell of the loss of our Chapter "Workhorse", our very own Terry Flick.

Terry Flick, born January 31, 1943, a veteran of the U.S. Navy, incapacitated with the use of only one arm/hand for many years, was paid a visit by the "Black Camel" (as it is known in many cultural circles) and carried off just a few days after our State Convention. We know that our beloved comrade is on another "duty" station and not TDY. While we know not what Terry's new assignment is, we do know that he did one heck of a job at his old one.

It won't be easy, but our Chapter will pick up all the pieces, especially now that we have resumed meeting, beginning with the September meeting.

(Editor Pat's Note: We will ALL miss you, Terry.)

(Photos Courtesy of Chaplain Clarence Hamilton)



## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Wreaths Across America is a 501 (c) (3) national organization in remembering and honoring of our deceased military comrades during a ceremony on the second Saturday of December. This year's ceremony will be December 15th at 11:00 AM at Port Hudson and Baton Rouge National Cemeteries. A special wreath for each military service and MIAs is provided by WAA that will be placed in honoring our fallen comrades during the ceremony.

I work with the Daughters of the American Revolution who are in charge of the ceremony at Port Hudson striving to get individuals, organizations and companies to participate by purchasing fresh wreaths (\$15 each) that will be placed on the military graves December 14th. Everyone, regardless whether they purchase a wreath, is encouraged to participate starting at 900 AM Friday morning.

Extensive information on WAA is online at [www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org). It is my hope that our state veteran organizations would support this worthy program.

Anyone interested in participating or if you have any questions, please contact me at 225-4787 or email [pcollins811@bellsouth.net](mailto:pcollins811@bellsouth.net). Your interest and support is appreciated.

Phil Collins, Lt Col. USAF, (Ret)