

# My First Christmas In Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below  
With tiny lights, like Heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow  
The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away the tear  
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear  
But the sounds of music can't compare  
with the Christmas choir up here.

I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,  
For it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart  
But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.  
So be happy for me, dear ones, you know I hold you dear  
And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I sent you each a special gift from my heavenly home above.  
I sent you each a memory of my undying love.  
After all, love is a gift more precious than pure gold  
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do.  
For I can't count the blessings or love he has for each of you.  
So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear.  
Remember I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

# The Will of God

The will of God will never take you  
Where the Grace of God cannot keep you,  
Where the arms of God cannot support you,  
Where the riches of God cannot supply your needs,  
Where the power of God cannot endow you.

The will of God will never take you  
Where the Spirit of God cannot work through you,  
Where the wisdom of God cannot teach you,  
Where the army of God cannot protect you,  
Where the hands of God cannot mold you.

The will of God will never take you  
Where the love of God cannot enfold you,  
Where the mercies of God cannot sustain you,  
Where the peace of God cannot calm your fears,  
Where the authority of God cannot overrule for you.

The will of God will never take you  
Where the comfort of God cannot dry your tears,  
Where the word of God cannot feed you,  
Where the miracles of God cannot be done for you,  
Where the omnipresence of God cannot find you.

# *Mansions of the Lord*

*From*

*'We Were Soldiers'*

*To fallen soldiers, let us sing  
Where no rockets fly or bullets wing  
Our broken brothers let us bring  
To the mansions of the lord*

*No more bleeding, no more fight  
No prayers pleading through the night  
Just divine embrace, eternal light  
In the mansions of the lord*

*Where no mothers cry and no children weep  
We will stand and guard though the angels sleep  
Through the ages safely keep  
The mansions of the lord*

**IN LOVING MEMORY**

**Cpl. William D. Richardson**

*In Memory of Our Fallen Hero*  
*I Stand Before You*

*I stand before you all today  
But not one eye can see my way  
My time arrived, to leave this earth  
A fact so planned, to every birth.  
It happened where I had to go  
My torch for life was so aglow  
I transferred while in uniform  
Protecting freedom, through a storm.  
Should I resent I died for you  
Not on my life, red, white, and blue.  
Please help my family through each day  
Tell all my friends, try not to stray.  
And of the country I did love  
Do think of me, through God above.  
Your memories, brought forth this day  
Send love to us, who could not stay.*

*Roger J. Robicheau*

# Eulogy

Do not stand at my grave and weep.

I am not there, I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.

I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.

I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the mornings hush,

I am the swift uplifting rush

of quiet birds in circled flight.

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry,

I am not there, I did not die.

## **Turned to Gold**

I think the saddest day  
That someone ever told  
When someone tells a mother  
That her blue star turned to gold.

Her head goes up so proudly  
While her heart within her dies  
She may be choked with sorrow  
But she never cries.

She waited for days on end  
For the war to pass  
When she could see her child again  
And hold them close at last.

Now, the news has come  
In words so bleak and cold  
Which tells her what she fears;

Her blue star has turned to gold.

Elbert Cooper  
**“To A Gold Star Mother”**

There's a land  
Where the birds are singing  
And the skies are always blue,  
On the other side of the rainbow  
Where your soldier waits for you.

Safe at last from the sins of mankind  
And the ravages of war  
On the other side of the rainbow  
Is the child that you adore.

In their eyes is the light of heaven~  
On their face is the same loved smile~  
On the other side of the rainbow  
Where they'll greet you in a while.

Presented to (insert mothers/fathers name

In memory of your son (or daughter):

(rank) (insert name)

On behalf of the Blue Star Mother's of America, Inc .

# *I AM THERE*

*Listen little sister, I have not gone away.  
I'll be there right beside you each and every day.  
When you think you are alone, I'll whisper in your ear.  
I'll gently give a tickle, to let you know I'm near.  
The pennies that you find laying on the ground,  
Will make you think of me, as I toss them down.  
Each morning when you wake blankets warm and tight,  
You'll feel my arms around you, squeezing you so tight.  
The raindrops that are falling from the sky above,  
Are the teardrops from my heart to shower you with love.  
My dear sweet little sister remember as you grow,  
I will always be with you, no matter where you go.  
The leaf that falls from the tree, the warm sun on your hair,  
The breeze that brushes by your face, it's me, I am there.*

*Written by Tommie, a Proud Army Mom*



# *BROTHER ANGEL*

*My brother is an angel  
He's watching over me.  
He left this world before his time  
In a land across the sea.  
He was a soldier in the war  
Fighting in the sand.  
But now he's in God's Army  
In the Holy Land.  
My brother is an angel  
He has his job to do.  
Protecting us from evil  
Until we're angels, too.  
Angels never have to sleep  
They watch us night and day.  
Now that my brother is an angel  
He'll watch over me as I play.  
At night when I am sleeping  
He'll stand guard while I rest.  
To have my brother for an angel  
Is better than the best!!!*

*Written by Tommie, a Proud Army Mom*

# A Letter from Heaven

My Dearest Family,

There are some things I'd like to say, but first of all, I want to let you know that I have arrived OK. I'm writing this from Heaven where I dwell with God above, where there are no more tears or sadness, there is just eternal love.

Please do not be unhappy just because I am out of sight. Remember that I'm with you every morning, noon and night. The day I had to leave you, when my life on earth was through, God picked me up and hugged me and He said, "I welcome you. It's good to have you back again; you were missed while you were gone. As for your dearest family, they'll be here later on. I need you here so badly, as part of My big plan. There is so much we have to do to help our mortal man."

Then God gave me a list of things he wished for me to do. Foremost on that list of mine was to watch and care for you. I will always be beside you every day and week and year. And when you're sad, I'm standing there to wipe away your tears. When you lie in bed at night, the days chores put to flight, God and I are closest to you in the middle of the night.

When you think of my life on earth and all those years, because you are only human they are bound to bring you tears. Do not be afraid to cry, it does relieve the pain. Remember there would be no flowers unless there was some rain.

I wish that I could tell you of all that God has planned. But if I were to tell you, you wouldn't understand. One thing is for certain, though my life in earth is over, I am closer to you now than I ever was before.

There are rocky roads ahead of you and many hills to climb, but together we can do it taking one day at a time. When you are walking down the street and I am on your mind, I'm walking in your footsteps, only half a step behind. When you feel that gentle breeze as the wind upon your face, that's me giving you a great big hug, or just a soft embrace.

When it's time for you to go, from that body to be free, remember you're not going, you are coming here to me. I will always love you, from this land way up above. I'll be in touch again soon.

Your Loved One.

## WEEP FOR ME NOT

Weep not for me now that I have passed. Remember the laughter, the affection the joy not just the recent tears. Cherish the memories, our hopes and dreams. Hold fast to the love that we shared. Be happy with the time we spent together and begin anew. For I am not really gone, I am closer than ever before.

As the morning sun rises and throughout the busy day, I am with you. Until the setting sun disappears below the horizon and we watch the day turn into night, I am here. You may feel a faint breeze stir round your head while you slumber as I gently kiss your forehead good night. The stars that shine so brightly in my heavenly sky help me to watch over you and keep you from harm.

I am the wind in the trees and the song of a bird. I am moonbeams in a midnight sky and a glorious rainbow after the storm. I am morning dew and freshly fallen snow. I am a butterfly overhead and a puppy at play. I am a smile on a strangers face, a gentle touch, a warm embrace.

Listen to the wind for my message of love. Watch the sun rise and set in the sky with me. Feel my essence encircle you with warm memories. Open your heart to know that I am not gone. Reach deep into your soil, you will find me.

I am here. Fear not for I am with you always.

## *They are Soldiers*

*As the sand moves under their boots,*

*And the hot air-dries their throats,*

*Can they hear us? Can they hear our voices?*

*As they lay on the hard ground in the dark of night,*

*The sweat stinging their eyes,*

*Can they see us? Can they see our tears?*

*As days turn into months,*

*And their hearts grow heavy,*

*Can they feel us? Can they feel our love?*

*Let us say their names in the breeze,*

*Just as the sun is going down,*

*Let them hear our praises. Let them see our smiles.*

*Let them feel our embraces.*

*Let them know they are not forgotten..*

*By Debbie Katsounakis, A Blue Star Mother*

# **This Crisply Folded Flag**

**Richard R. Huebschman, April 2004 - Iraq**

**This crisply folded flag  
stands for Valor and for Honor.  
These stripes do not stand for stripes,  
They stand for Courage under fire.**

**These stripes mark the passing  
of a son, of a daughter.  
They represent the sacrifice  
of a mother and a father.**

**This piece of folded cloth  
is more than just a flag.  
It's the leaving of a loved one  
a brother, a sister, a mother, a dad.**

**So when you see a flag unfurled  
and waving in the breeze,  
remember all those families  
and the folded flags that they receive.**

**But most of all  
Those stars and stripes together mean  
The sacrifice of an Airman, of a Soldier,  
of a Sailor or a Marine.**

### *Safely Home*

*I am home in Heaven, dear ones;  
Oh, so happy and so bright!  
There is perfect joy and beauty  
In this everlasting light.*

*All the pain and grief is over,  
Every restless tossing passed;  
I am now at peace forever,  
Safely home in Heaven at last.*

*Did you ever wonder I so calmly  
Trod the valley of the shade?  
Oh! but Jesus' love illumined  
Every dark and fearful glade.*

*And He came Himself to meet me  
In that way so hard to tread;  
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,  
Could I have one doubt or dread?*

*Then you must not grieve so sorely,  
For I love you dearly still;  
Try to look beyond Earth's shadows,  
Pray to trust our Father's Will.*

*There is still work waiting for you,  
So you must not idly stand;  
Do it now, while life remaineth –  
You shall rest in Jesus' land.  
When that work is completed,  
He will gently call you Home;  
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,  
Oh, the joy to see you come!*

# Fallen Heroes Poem

Held upright by its bayonet I view the M16.

Standing in the foreground Of the grass of Kelly Green.

A helmet sets upon its stock And dog tags glisten in the sun.

They stand a silent vigil Beside the boots whose duties done.

The eternal flame sets flickering Putting out symbolic light

In remembrance of all the soldiers Who have fought in their last fight.

Standing along side all of this A wreath of Red, and White and Blue.

The colors of our country That they gave their allegiance to.

A field of shiny granite crosses Radiate in a geometric sweep.

They stand in honor of those we've lost. One for each, a memory to keep.

Lest we forget what this all means And the goals for which they fought.

We must remember we are standing for them. "We are here because they are not."

# *The Final Roll Call*

*We thought of you with love today  
But that is nothing new.*

*We thought about you yesterday  
And days before that too.*

*We think of you in silence  
We often speak your name.*

*Now all we have are memories  
And your picture in a frame.*

*Your memory is our keepsake  
With which we'll never part.*

*God has you in His Keeping  
We have you in our Heart.*



# Prayer for Peace

Loving God and Father, answer our prayers for a world of peace. Give us strength as we face the conflicts of our troubled world.. Cleanse our minds of retaliation and help us to be instruments of Your peace. Fill us with the compassion we need to overlook the hatefulness of others and enable us to be a country embraced by the grace of Your teachings. We ask to share in the task of restoring harmony and justice.

God of compassion and mercy, we pray for all the people whose lives have been changed by violence in this world. Remember, too, those who perished in the attack on America and the lives that have been lost in protecting democracy and freedom around the world. Console their families and friends with the knowledge that their loved ones will find comfort and peace in Your loving arms. We put our trust in Your heavenly graces. Hear our plea and grant that peace reign throughout the world.

Amen

# The Marine's Prayer

Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones and Thee without shame of fear. Protect my family. Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties of my country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Make me considerate of those committed to my leadership. Help me wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold.

If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again.

Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer.

Amen

# The Navy Hymn

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!

Christ! Whose voice the waters heard  
And hushed their raging at Thy word,  
Who walked'st on the foaming deep,  
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!

Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood  
Upon the chaos dark and rude,  
And bid its angry tumult cease,  
And give, for wild confusion, peace;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!

Trinity of love and power!  
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee  
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

# The Army Hymn

Oh, Lord of Hosts! Almighty King!  
Behold the sacrifice we bring!  
To every arm Thy strength impart,  
Thy spirit shed through every heart.

Wake in our breasts the living fires,  
The holy faith that warmed our sires;  
Thy hand hath made our Nation free!  
To die for her is serving thee.

Be Thou a pillar for to show  
The midnight snare, the silent foe;  
And when the Battle thunders loud,  
Still guide us in its moving cloud.

God of all Nations! Sovereign Lord!  
In Thy dread name we draw the sword,  
We lift the Starry Flag on high,  
That fills with light our stormy sky.

From Treason's rent, from murder's stain,  
Guard Thou its folds till Peace shall reign,  
Till fort and field, till shore and sea  
Join our loud anthem: praise to thee!

# **The Air Force Hymn**

**Lord, guard and guide those who fly  
Through the great spaces in the sky;  
Be with them traversing the air  
In darkening storms or sunshine fair,**

**You who support with tender might  
The balanced birds in all their flight.  
Lord of the tempered winds, be near,  
That, having you, they know no fear.**

**Control their minds with instinct fit,  
What time adventuring, they quit  
The firm security of land;  
Grant steadfast eye and skillful hand.**

**Aloft in solitudes of space  
Uphold them with your saving grace  
O God, protect those who fly  
Through lonely ways beneath the sky.**

# The Coast Guard Hymn

From North and South and East and West,  
The Coast Guard's in the fight.  
Destroying subs and landing troops,  
The Axis feels our might.  
For we're the first invaders,  
On every fighting field.  
Afloat, ashore, on men and Spars,  
You'll find the Coast Guard shield.

We're always ready for the call,  
We place our trust in Thee.  
Through howling gale and shot and shell,  
To win our victory.  
"Semper Paratus" is our guide,  
Our pledge, our motto, too.  
We're "Always Ready," do or die!  
Aye! Coast Guard, we fight for you.