

Fenway 2017

David F. Freschi

From a chance meeting

“You’re a Vietnam Veteran.”

The pinned hat and age the clue I guess.

“Check out the Sox’ foundation website

A correspondence started, not too hopeful

Lots of disappointments pepper the past

Surprised by – a response

Cynicism slowly, so slowly

Gives way to anticipation’s tide

Till the day came, waiting in line

We still knew how to do that well

Till onto the field we marched

No longer in sharp step but marching once more

A thousand plus, wives, lovers, children and grandchildren

Fans standing and cheering, surrounding

Honor guard and players saluting

Honor and pride, joy tempered

Settle, muffling and dissolving

Old angers, shame and ridicule

Shaken free, for some, a first as

Tears stream on aged cheeks

A thundering flyover gives us the about face

Leaving the field, a unit of brothers and sisters

Denied many years past

Opportunity to come home together

Exiting, fans standing still all the way as

Each of us leaves to cheering and clapping

**A moment, all Americans together**

**Old spines stiffen, shoulders roll back**

**A moment, our moment given by all**

**Taken with grateful joy and pride**

**As we march home, home, to our welcoming home**