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Independence Day: A Song for Silent Liberty

Vernie Lynn Demille

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Independence Day: A Song for Silent Liberty

For all the men who left their fields
And bled in battles known
To a world who watched,
Breathless, on the edge of
Enlightenment
To see if the spark
Would catch, hold, flame
And warm the globe,

Honor is given.
To men who die,
Are willing to die,
Or kill in battle,
A foreign foe.

While the women live

Alone in a field
Where they pick up the reins
And do the work
Of husbands, sons, and hands.

Alone in a home
Where food is scarce,
Comfort is absent,
And fear flavors every bite.

Counting the cost
Of liberty,
They are one half of a price paid,
Their sweat staining the soil
Of a nation,

While their currency
Goes un-honored
And the purchase of their pain
Unsung.
In a country where we celebrate
Those who lay down their lives
For a friend,
Or the hopeless
And oppressed,
We read the scripture
And see only death.

We do not hear the silent ones
Who stand on sacred ground
And lay down their lives
In the long death
Of living.
Living every day
For someone else's good.

So I sing,
This Independence Day,
The song of silent Liberty:
Lady of the Earth.

For the
Mother, daughter, wife
Who harnessed herself
To the implements
That broke the sod,
Planted the seed,
And nurtured the dream
Of America.

I sing for farmwives
Who sharpened ancient blades
And tilled the Earth
With sticks
When their men beat the plowshares
Into swords.

I sing for the women
Who bled enough on their crops
To feed nitrogen to hungry greens.
Not enough each day to die only once
But enough over years to fill a family,
A posterity,
A Homeland.

Where no sculpture, but the armatures
Covered by living clay,
Are raised to bear your name to the future.

To my mothers,
The matriarchs who stand
As proud and brave and noble
As any soldier,
As any general,
As any man,
I honor you.

I hear your song,
It lives in my heart,
And the statue to remember your sacrifice,
The bronze to carry your name,
Is carved upon my soul.

Lady Liberty,
Woman of faith, hope,
And charity,
May you ever be
America in me.