

# Old Army Hat

Billy Ray Cyrus

He came home to Tennessee  
Young man at the end of forty five  
Only one of seven men in his platoon  
That made it back alive

And he must've seen some tough things  
But he never said too much about all that  
Put his pictures and his memories in our seater chairs  
Everything but his old army hat

By the time that I was born  
The winds of change had swept across our land  
They were burning flags and draft cards  
When they bothered to take some kind of stand

Now we used to laugh at grandpa  
Like he was some old relic from the past  
'Cause he never left the house unless he was wearing  
That funny looking worn out army hat

Every eye was on him  
Anytime when he went anywhere  
They whispered and they pointed  
But you could tell my grandpa didn't care

"I ain't wearing this for them", he'd say  
"It's a whole lot more than that  
For my buddies who gave everything  
The least that I can do is keep on wearing this old army hat"

He called me up one morning  
Said he'd seen it on the news on his TV  
"They've opened up a monument on World War II  
In Washington DC"

"I ain't getting any younger  
And I wish someone would take me to see that"  
And I couldn't help but think they're gonna laugh at you up there  
If you show up in that silly army hat

Two strangers, both salute  
As grandpa walked up to the monument  
One said, "Thank you soldier, for the job well done"  
The other said, "Amen"

And a young boy told him  
"Sir, my daddy went to war and didn't make it back  
Could you take a picture standing here beside me  
And maybe let me wear your army hat"

Every eye was on him  
There was not a dry one in the crowd  
They whispered and they pointed  
As my grandpa stood up extra tall and proud

And he told him, "Son, just keep it"  
When the young boy tried his best to give it back

"You're a brave little soldier and every soldier needs  
His very own authentic army hat"

"For your daddy who gave everything the least that I can do  
Is pass on this old worn out army hat"