

## **Thank You Soldier**

**Have you stopped to thank a Veteran today?  
For the price of freedom they had to pay?**

**Did you gaze into those distant eyes?  
Did you see the ghosts he can't deny?**

**Did you think a soldier's heart was made of steel?  
Because he was trained to kill, he couldn't feel?**

**Did you see the guilt written on his face,  
For the loss of life he can't replace?**

**Did you know he mourns the lives he couldn't save,  
And walks with comrades in their grave?**

**Did you remember the boy with innocence lost?  
Do you really know war's ultimate cost?**

**Have you felt the blast of artillery fire?  
Do you have the courage it would require?**

**Have you stood in trenches consumed with fear?  
Felt the enemies breath so very near?**

**Have you walked with God on a battleground?  
Seen your brothers dead or dying all around?**

**Have you stopped to thank a Vet today,  
Or did you just turn and walk away?**

**From the pain he'll carry for the rest of his life,  
Did you consider his family, his children, his wife?**

**That watch him suffer in silence each and every day,  
As he's haunted by memories that don't go away?**

**Did you care that the soldier is still pulling guard?  
That his heart, mind, and soul will forever be scarred?**

**Do you know how he suffers from ptsd?  
Or that our precious freedom is never free?**

**Do you care that he still hears the blood curdling screams?  
Or that he returns to the war each night in his dreams?**

**Have you felt the sorrow of a combat Vet?  
Or would you rather just forget?**

**That war has pierced his hardened heart,  
And torn this soldier all apart?**

**Would you rather our heroes just fade away?  
Or will you stop to thank a Vet today?**

**By Chris Woolnough**