



USMC

Whisper 'Semper Fi,' The Ballad of the Leatherneck

By C. Keith Haugen

He was sitting on a park bench, hunched and looking low
It was hard to imagine how he'd looked so long ago.
His beard was long and shaggy now; his sparse hair white as snow,
But his steel gray eyes were piercing, and I turned away to go.

He looked lonely and forgotten, and maybe homeless too,
Like life had dealt him a bad hand, maybe quite a few.
He was probably abandoned by those who didn't care.
I wondered what had happened, what drove him to despair.

He said, "Son, I'm a Leatherneck, of wars before your time"
His eyes grew still more piercing as he looked deep into mine.
"Your uniform tells me you're a Devil Dog, the man I've waited for,
And there's something I want to tell you ... things I've never said before."

The tattoos on his weathered arm read "Mom" and "Semper Fi"
"Let's sing our hymn together, son, once more before I die."
As we sang of Montezuma's halls and the shores of Tripoli,
The old man stood straight and tall, and he looked down at me.

"Bury me at Arlington, put an EGA upon my chest.
Tell all the world I died for them, that I was one of the best.
I was with the Fifth on Iwo, and I fought in Korea too.
During that ugly war in Vietnam, I stood proud and cheered for you.

"Get me a straight edge razor, lad, and give me a good clean shave.
I want to look my very best as I go to my grave.
Cut my hair, shine my boots, let me borrow your best blues.
You can have them back after I'm gone, and all my medals too.

I don't want no flowers; an American flag will do.
My life was lived and given for the red and white and blue.
Whisper 'Semper Fi,' my boy, so loud that all will hear.
Fire them rifles in the air; they're music to my ear."

As he told me his last wishes, I saw him standing tall.
I could see the ribbons on his chest, in the light of the Mall.
And as he closed his steel gray eyes, I thought about the Corps.
He'd lived the life of a real Marine, who could ask for anything more?

"Whisper 'Semper Fi,' my lad," his voice lingered in my mind.
I thought about all my buddies, those I'd left behind.
Today, I'd met a real Marine, a hero through and through,
Forgotten by his country, but not by me and you.



USS Arizona Memorial

We Still Care, The Pearl Harbor Commemorative Song (1991)

(Words and music by Keith Haugen)

Sung by Keith Haugen, with guitar accompaniment by Guy Tseu, and vocal backup by The Sounds of Aloha Barbershop Chorus

Zeroes broke the silence of a quiet Sunday morning
God's day of rest was shattered by the sounds of guns and bombing.
The harbor boiled, the sky turned black, our home was under fierce attack;
Our brave men were fighting back, the attack was without warning.

Grown men cried, as comrades died,
and Pearl became a gateway to heaven.

Heroes born on that morn lived to tell of the hell and to mourn
With great pride those who died ... remember well.

Since that day of infamy, 50 (many) years have come and gone
Tear-stained pages tell how we wrote our victory song
The war is over, all is past, peace has come, but memories last,
Our flag is halfway down the mast, oh yes, we remember.

How grown men cried, as comrades died,
and Pearl became a gateway to heaven

So lay a wreath, say a prayer, for the men who have died under there
Lives they gave, a country saved, and we still care
We still care

"We Still Care, The Pearl Harbor Commemorative Song," was written in 1991 for the 50th anniversary of the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, and was performed as part of the commemorative events at Pearl Harbor marking that date. It was first recorded in 1991, and was chosen as the theme song for the half-time show of the 1991 Aloha Bowl Game, on Christmas Day 1991, and has been sung at many military events ever since – at Pearl Harbor, Hickam AFB, Kane`ohe MBH, Punchbowl National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, and as Part I of the composer's "Trilogy of War and Peace" in the Combined Military Band Concert at the historic Hawai'i Theatre in Honolulu. It has been on several recordings, including the award-winning "Lest We Forget" by The Patriots (Patriotic Music CD of the Year in the Music Foundation of Hawai'i's People's Choice Awards.) © 1991, C. Keith Haugen



Walking Through the Memories, a Requiem to the Fallen (1999)

(Words and music by Keith Haugen)

Sung by Keith Haugen & The Patriots

The peace they fought for is right here, between the rows of crosses
They died to save our freedom, and they're numbered among our losses
Although they came from far and wide, this place is now their home
A peaceful, final resting place, where they'll never be alone.

And I'm walking through the memories,
Where honor knows no end

That unmarked grave is special, for I know that he's my friend
We were comrades on a foreign shore, buddies to the end
In the distance I hear a bugle call, as I stroll alone with God
Its haunting voice is singing "Taps" for those beneath the sod

And I'm walking through the memories
Of those who gave their all

Walking, walking, walking, pasts graves both old and new
Their sun has set, their day is done, they were the chosen few
We salute and pay our tribute, flags and flowers all around
They all came back to make their home, in this hallowed ground.

And I'm walking through the memories
Of those who gave their all
Yes, I'm walking through the memories
Where honor knows no end.

"Walking Through the Memories, a Requiem to the Fallen" is a salute to the men and women buried in our National Memorial Cemeteries, from Punchbowl in Honolulu, Hawai'i to Arlington, Virginia, near our Nation's Capitol. Keith is the

first Hawai`i composer invited to perform his patriotic songs at Arlington and
Punchbowl
cemeteries. © 1999, C. Keith Haugen



USS Missouri

Mokukaua, A Victory Song for the USS Missouri (1998)

(Words and music by Keith Haugen)

**Sung by Keith Haugen with guitarist
Chief Petty Officer Gordon Manuel Freitas, USN (Ret.).**

Ua hele aku `o ia, ka mokukaua nui
E hakaka a e ho`opau i ka `enemi o `Amelika

Ua ho`i mai `o ia, ka mea lanakila
He ho`ailona no, ka maluhia mau loa

Hui: Ha`awipio `oko`a, na koa hae
Ma luna o kona papahele
Ha`awipio `oko`a, na koa hae
Ma luna o kona papahele
Ua lanakila makou

Kapa `ia no ka moku`aina, `o Mikouli la
He home lana no, na luina koa he nui

Ua ho`i mai hou `o ia, enoho ma Pu`uloa
Hoapili me ka mokukaua, I ho`omaka ai ke kaua

Na makou i lanakila ai

“Mokukaua, A Victory Song for the USS Missouri,” was composed when the battleship returned to Hawai`i in 1998 to be permanently berthed next to the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor. The Hawaiian words translate to tell how the battleship sailed out to meet and destroy the enemy, and returned victorious. Named for the State of Missouri, it was home to many seagoing warriors. It returned to make its home at Pu`uloa (Pearl Harbor), next to the battleship (Arizona) where the war begin. The song was premiered as part of a Military Appreciation Week Combined Military Band Concert at the historic Hawai`i Theatre, as Part II of the composer’s “Trilogy of War & Peace.” It has also been performed by The Patriots on the decks of the

**USS Missouri, in a September 2 celebration marking the historic surrender
of Japan on those very decks – in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945.
© 1998, C. Keith Haugen**

Yes, We Remember (1991)

(Words by Keith Haugen/Music by Bob Nelson)

**Narrated by U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye
With piano accompaniment by Bob Nelson**

It's been 50 years since that quiet Sunday morning when Pearl Harbor, and all the world, woke to the sound of attack planes and bombs. Men who survived that brutal attack on a nation at peace will never forget how black smoke darkened the skies over Hawai'i, and how the Island's smell of fresh air and flowers was replaced by smells of war, of burning oil, and of blood. The sirens wailed, the smoke billowed skyward, steel melted in the heat of war. For many, the mere mention of dive-bombers, torpedoes, cannons and explosions, trigger memories they will carry to their graves. They remember their buddies who died, and they remember somebody's brother who was pulled from the inferno to live and fight another day. They look back through newspaper clippings and scrapbooks – 50 years of tear-stained pages – and they see things they can never forget. They remember what it is like to be scared, to look at death all around you, and to look death in the face. They remember the screams of dying men in pain. It is like passing through hell ... and remembering it.

For those of us who were not there, the memory is quite different. But we remember it too. We remember the brave acts of the surprised men who brought their wits about them and who fought back – valiantly. We remember the heroism of some, the bravery of all. We remember the things they did for us, for their country, and what we still believe in. We remember how this tragic act brought our nation together as never before and never since, and how we teamed up in a common cause and went on to win a war and bring about that fragile thing called peace. We lay a wreath, say a prayer, and observe a moment of silence in tribute to those we lost. We fly our flag and we stand proudly alongside those who are still with us. And, as "Taps" is played over a watery grave, we shed a tear. Yes, we remember.

"Yes, We Remember" was written in 1991 as the "B" side to "We Still Care, The Pearl Harbor Commemorative Song." It was first recorded by Senator Daniel K. Inouye and Bob Nelson in 1991. © 1991, C. Keith Haugen.



Dedicated to the United States Marines

**“Our heartfelt thanks for more than
two centuries of service to our country.”**

Island Viking wants to say a big thank you to everyone who helped make this recording possible. Mahalo a nui loa to **U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye**, one of our real American military heroes, and recipient of The Congressional Medal of Honor. Thanks also to:

- **Col. Ray Adamiec**, USMC (Ret.), military advisor to the composer when the song was written and first recorded by The Patriots on “Lest We Forget,” an award-winning Island Viking CD. (Patriotic CD of the Year, 2001, Music Foundation of Hawai`i Awards.)
- **Chief Petty Officer Gordon Manuel Freitas**, USN (Ret.) who wrote the music for the first recording of this song.
- **Stanton K. Haugen**, musician; **Pierre Grill**, musician/engineer; and **Jen Loper**, graphic designer, all for the title cut.
- **The Sounds of Aloha Barbershop Chorus**, singers and musicians **Guy Tseu, Gordon Freitas, Pierre Grill, Stanton K. Haugen, The Patriots (Keith Haugen, Gordon Freitas, Don “Geezer” Humphrey)** for backup singing and music on bonus tracks; to **U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye** and the memory of **President Franklin D. Roosevelt**, whose spoken voices are featured; and to the recording/mixing engineers,

On this recording you will hear

1. **"Whisper 'Semper Fi,' The Ballad of The Leatherneck"** (Keith Haugen) by U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, with music by Stanton K. Haugen & Pierre Grill

BONUS TRACKS

2. **"Yes, We Remember"** (Keith Haugen/Bob Nelson) narrated by U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye with Bob Nelson on piano.
3. **"We Still Care, The Pearl Harbor Commemorative Song"** (Keith Haugen) sung by Keith Haugen and the Sounds of Aloha Barbershop Chorus, with guitar by Guy Tseu and bugle by Stanton K. Haugen, and the spoken voices of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye.
4. **"Mokukaua, a Victory Song for the USS Missouri"** (Keith Haugen) sung by Keith Haugen with Gordon Freitas on guitar.

5. **"Walking Through The Memories, a Requiem to the Fallen"** (Keith Haugen) sung by The Patriots (Keith Haugen, Gordon Freitas and Don "Geezer" Humphrey) and Stanton K. Haugen on bugle.

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