

## Elegy for Arthur Stead



Who hasn't been mesmerized by a sparkler?  
Who hasn't watched that star burn toward your hand.  
Feel the heat on your fingertips, then - Let Go.

Arthur's light burned bright ...  
the sparkle in his eyes,  
the light of his smile...  
But it did not come easy,  
It took all the fight and might  
that his intelligence, and diligence, could muster.  
But Arthur had more than fierce tenacity...  
He had compassion, and empathy,  
and these made him human.  
These made him... Humane.

Arthur became understanding, kind, and gentle  
by helping others.

Compassion and empathy can only manifest in us  
through another...  
Then another...,  
and another became many,  
and many became all of us.

I hope someone with the experience can come up here  
and talk about Arthur's time in the Navy,  
In the service to his Country.  
I could thank him for his Military Service if I knew the sacrifices he made,  
but I don't,  
so I can't.  
I can only thank him for the friendship he gave to me.

Thank him for the care he shared with others,  
he shared with us.

So all of us, who are here tonight, can salute him,  
because  
we all know the pain of becoming human.  
The pain of becoming who we are.

But some of us are here because we are lost.  
Some of us need that spark.  
That light in the dark.  
The light that was Arthur,  
is Arthur.  
Shine on.

Dennis Hagler