

My Armor (2012)

Rhonda Liddell

Stand tall, chin in, chest up, heels together, toes out

Dress smartly, creases crisp, gignline straight

Ten minutes early, NEVER late

I wear my armor with nothing but pride

I have NO FEAR

Nothing to hide

I march for hours, I am a PT hound

I will put on gloves and go ten rounds

I can recite my Eleven General Orders frontward and back

I am my Brother's and Sister's keeper there is NO slack

I for them and they for me

We remain in perpetual, cohesive, proximity

This is NO job

It is a way of LIFE

You learn to love the strife

Adrenaline junkies you might say

work hard, play harder everyday

This is the sailors and soldiers way

But now,..... Right NOW

I stand naked, I stand alone

The armed forces has sent me home

A place I no longer know

For home to me is from where I just came

It is full of Honor, Courage, Commitment, no shame

Here there is no one to have my back

without my armor I feel withered and small

oh, how I long to once again be ten feet tall

To have much pride, To be a part

Will someone please tell me where to start

I have no direction I have lost my way

Lingering in ephemeral, yielding, remoteness

I have moments I dread to face another day

I wish they never took my armor away

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