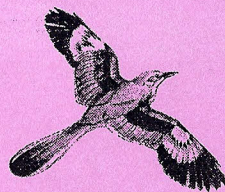


The Protectors

*Pain, but none,
Each pulsation carried with it a growing chill,
the mind succumbed toward an eternal darkness,
and every futile breath struggled to fill.
Yet tears still coursed on with their alertness,
as a faint smile appears from within the pain.
I hold my friend...a brother,
and then, a sound materializes from his lips,
as he dies in the hot Iraqi rain.*



The Mockingbird Chapter

Awards

Dr. James Denio

Of the Adult Division

1st Place for the poem

Titled The Protectors

Collin County Poetry Contest 2008

Contest Chair Inez Grimes