

DEATH IN VIET NAM

By Luis Omar Salinas

A large number of young Mexican Americans fought and Died in the Vietnam War. While the sacrifice of soldiers in battle is always a grievous loss, the sacrifice made by these young men often seemed particularly bitter in light of the exploitation and poverty suffered by many of them and their families in the United States.

The ears of strangers

listen

fighting men tarnish the ground

death has whispered

tales to the young

5

and now choir boys are ringing

bells

another sacrifice for America

a Mexican

comes home

10

his beloved country

gives homage

and mothers sleep

in cardboard houses

let all anguish be futile

15

tomorrow it will rain

and the hills of Viet Nam

resume

the sacrifice is not over