

DEAR MOM AND DAD

Robert T. McLaughlin, Ph.D.*
New Hampshire State Department of Education

Dear mom and dad,

It isn't easy
Stuck out on this border
In a town that doesn't
Want us and you know
No one likes to talk too serious
With the war so close and all
And the nights
Well they're really just the worst
You can never sleep too sound
'Cause you want to know
You'll get your chance for another
Day and Jesus we're so tired
And what's this war here for
Anyway and God I miss my
Lady – but what's she look like?
I forget – and there's been so much dying
That scarce is burial duty over when
It comes back to you again
And someone please stop
All this noise of children burning
Mother screams and paramedic sobbing
Over one that just quite
Couldn't make it and meantime
The explosions keep approaching till
Well don't misunderstand but God
I wish someone'd drop the Big One
And let me get some sleep
Some quiet and I love you very
Much and I have to run now

* **ROBERT T. McLAUGHLIN, Ph.D.**, chaired Rivier College's education division in 2008. He oversees professional educator preparation program approval for the NH Dept. of Education. His three children, he enjoys telling them, are usually cute and adorable; with his wife he provides a home for four border collies, who all are cute and adorable. He founded and chaired the International Society for Technology in Education's interest groups on innovative learning technologies and digital equity, serves on the national commission on technology and the future of teacher education, and is senior fellow for the Stokes Institute for Opportunity in STEM Education.