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*If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?*

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# A Charlie Brown Tree

Christmas 1971

Out on the Jaycee lot  
The trees went one by one  
Till the barren ground  
Was as empty  
As the graying sky

Too broke to buy  
A full needled tree  
For ourselves  
We put it  
Well out of mind.

Time to close in the cold,  
But a twisted runt,  
A half-bare branched  
Scraggly whatsit was left.  
"Take it," he said.

In our mobile box abode  
It fit just fine.  
A little tinsel, no lights,  
An ornament or two.  
Our first family tree.

And the promise  
Of more to come.

~ *Gerald Alan Ney* ~