

## Once a Marine

Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines  
With something deep inside  
We transcend ordinary means  
Something in the heart—Something in the soul  
Commitment deep inside  
Somehow makes us whole  
A drive deep within  
Most don't understand  
Devotion to our country—  
Like touching God's own hand  
A purpose before unknown—  
Difficult to express  
A longing to make a difference  
In a world of conflict  
And unrest  
Sometimes we face choices  
The gray between right and wrong  
Trying to balance oaths and hearts  
Only makes us more strong  
Having a chance to make a difference  
...Well, that's the chance of a lifetime  
and the goals we had set for ourselves—  
We find ourselves surpassing those lines  
Devotion to our country  
Which we have served so well  
Births a sense of honor  
Words can never tell

Gayle Heimbach Bradshaw  
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