This message from Forrest led to a string of memories about December 7th, 1941, Hawaii, and the Army's brief experiment with shorts and knee socks as part of the summer uniform,

Click Here

to go to an AFVNVETS.NET Group Conversation on WW Two and Army Summer Uniforms.

Veterans Day

Tomorrow I will be back at Moeller High School where I taught and coached for twenty years. They are holding an assembly and my poem and broadcast of Going Home will be a part of that event. I am sending this to you for your own, private, ceremony and to tell you that I will be thinking of you especially tomorrow. God bless you, and Welcome Home. What you are about to hear took place 48 years ago, on the day I returned home from Vietnam. It is a story as new as today, when a young solider, sailor, airman or marine returns from the Middle East, and at least as old as Homer's tale of Odysseus returning from Troy almost 800 years before the birth of Christ. It is as unique as the individual and as universal as war and homecoming. What do I hope will happen as you listen to it? I hope you will honor those who serve and the imperfect freedoms you enjoy by removing your hat when you hear the National Anthem and that when you meet a veteran you will welcome him home for it is a long difficult journey he or she has made.

A Soldier's Refrain: Going Home

[Broadcast on National Public Radio on November 11, 2008 but sent out by e-mail in November 2016.]