

From Here to There and Back Again: Some Notes From the Journey

By Jim Carlton

Journey of Circles

It's been a journey of circles,
full of false starts, inexplicable
moments in time, filled with
unexpected beginnings and endings.

I still can't fully comprehend
its purpose, especially my part in it,
often, it seemed, only as an extra in
someone or something else's drama.

One tiny character in a cast of billions,
like in an epic war movie scene
with one or two main stand outs amongst
the countless fighting and dying warriors.

In the end, accolades heaped on
a handful of heroes receiving
honors for all the sweat and blood
shed by the extras noticed no longer.

Bio

Jim Carlton has participated in the Veteran's Writers Group in Lincoln, Nebraska, since its inception in 2014.

Jim is an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Navy where he served onboard the aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga, which was involved in Naval combat operations off the coast of Vietnam and in the Gulf of Tonkin during the Vietnam War.

Jim is retired and lives in Lincoln with his wife and dog, Maggie. He has written these poems over a span of years. They have all been presented at the VA Writer's Group and have been edited and rewritten based on feedback and suggestions from the group.