

# Mediated Minds Conference, University of Cincinnati, Blue Ash April 19, 2019

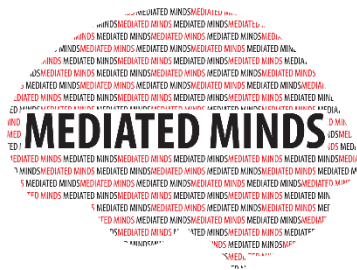
## Survivor's Guilt

Owens, Molli

**Abstract — (Poetry reading) I will be reading a poem that won 2nd place from the Poetry contest..**

### I. INTRODUCTION

This poem is the second in a series. The speaker in the poem is telling the story of a fellow soldier and his struggles with deployment.



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## Survivor's Guilt

I once knew this man,  
A simple man,  
A small time ago.

In faraway Afghanistan,  
We were dropped past the sand,  
Near a camp commissioned for the crest.

He was found later on  
Near mine fields long done,  
With his right leg near gone.

He was bound to remember  
The faces covered by shadow  
And painfully disfigured.

Not alone in his guilt,  
But isolated by shame  
Alone he could not handle his pain.

I have lost so many,  
In the small amount of time I've lived,  
But one sticks out to me the most.

Squad three and Squad two  
We were charged with others,  
We rose above the rest.

He is gone now though,  
It is hard to forget,  
Those decisions he made and left.

Sent home still breathing  
He could not fathom the meaning  
Of why he was still around.

He was found one morning,  
Hanging from his ceiling,  
A deadly turning.

I blame myself,  
It haunts me still,  
I should be used to it by now.

This simple man I once knew,  
Lost to squad three  
And squad two.