JUST LOOK AT YOU NOW

You entered our lives one cold wintry day

Bringing sunshine and warmth, challenge and play.

The Lord smiled upon us and gave us a gift,

Transforming our world with kisses and bliss.

We embarked on our new life, never the same -

Breathless excitement, our hearts were aflame.

You looked to us for guidance, confident we’d know

Answers to questions, how your life would unfold.

Homework and sports and crazy sleepovers,

Dogs, cats, and fish, and games of Red Rover.

Lost toys, skinned knees, endless bandaids,

Smiles and hugs, forgotten lines in school plays.

Halloween costumes that made you the winner,

Birthdays, Thanksgiving, and warm Christmas dinners.

Designing your life, your own special mold.

Your destiny still out there, your dreams still untold.

Hurt feelings, and drama, determined to be you,

Honest and strong, passionate and true.

The heartbreak of first love, uncontrollable tears,

We helped you through loss, consoling your fears.

We stood beside you when you’d make a mistake,

Offering advice and respect, for the decisions you’d make.

The years of Rebellion, thinking we weren’t too bright

But as time went on, you knew we were right.

We grew a lot too, most amazing of all

Was watching you grow from little to tall.

Standing before us, in strength and conviction

Filled with excitement, honor, and that great determination.

Yes, when you were born, I said a prayer,

Bowing my head over your soft downy hair.

And as my tears fell on your small precious cheek

I prayed to God this promise I’d keep -

To love and protect you for all of your life,

Watching you grow, strong, honest and bright.

But the cards are turned now, you’re all grown up,

Strong in your love, conviction of trust.

Just look at you now, that smile on your face -

The uniform you wear with God’s Mighty Grace.

The vow that YOU made to honor and protect

Your family, your country, yes, all of the rest.

Who would’ve known the future you’d choose?

Determined to win, and never to lose.

One child grown in the fellowship of man,

To strengthen our nation, under one God we stand.

As we travel through the journey of life,

We relive our memories through our own child’s eyes.

The helplessness we feel that you’re so far away

Is consoling us now with each breath that you take.

We’re so very proud of you, a firm steady rock -

One tiny sparrow is now a great hawk.

Our best friend forever, your strength will prevail,

You are OUR American Airman, and you will not fail.

Written March 2013 by Carol Hildebrand