

Lucas Shepherd

Outside the Student Center on Campus I Noticed a Veteran

Outside the student
center on campus
I noticed a veteran.

He wore no camo
no USMC tattoo
no GO ARMY t-shirt
no dog tags
no nothing that you might
notice. I just knew.

Later, when we met
at the campus Veterans
Day party—cake, free
t-shirts, etc.—I wondered
if he also knew, and how.

Lucas Shepherd served in the United States Air Force from 2006-2010. His war poetry has been nominated for two Pushcart Prizes. He teaches English at Tyler Junior College in TX.