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#I AM VANESSA GUILLEN

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#I AM VANESSA GUILLEN

By Maile Barnard / MxMaile



I light a candle to remember Vanessa Guillen.
To mourn the loss of a fellow soldier, yet to come home.
I hear the voices urging change - a collection of whispers diluted.

As the Vanessa Guillen act moves through senators' pens, consider Vanessa. Remember her story. Because although the pain will still be there, change cocoons transcendence. A cherished thought, a battle fought, a butterfly to remember.

Vanessa Guillen is a vulnerable story of a woman that served that did not get justice. She served within the military system at Ft. Hood where she was brutally dismembered, torched, and thrown into a nearby river. Not so far after making claims that she was being sexually assaulted by her supervisor. As a female veteran, I have seen the ins and outs of our modern military system. I have also seen the impacts of a failing system when it comes to dealing with sexual violence. One of the biggest challenges, and something we don't always do well within our government, is effectively holding people accountable for their transgressions. As the bills in response to her case continue, I hope we can bring her justice by changing the system that hurt her. I hope we can actively listen to the stories being told. Respond imminently. Ultimately, bringing a better future to soldiers to come.

Lyrics

The Humming of a bird's sweet song
Laid like a leaf in fall.
Feathered banisters draw
Their colors sewn to the wind
Swift came currents of people
And a tindered trumpet was
Called

Anchors away, to the girl who fought to her grave
Anchors away, to this tempered and
passionate rage
Anchors away, your fight now runs in my
veins

And I swear it to be true
I will rise beside you
Here's to change, just say their names

Vanessa Guillen echoes in me
Vanessa Guillen echoes in me

Hark, for an angel has fallen
Her Hair now sweeps at her feet
Hail, for the people are calling
Her name now echoes in me

Vanessa Guillen, echoes in me
Vanessa Guillen, bring her justice and peace

And when my candle is lit at my window
Their image mirrored to me
Our souls are together like sisters
And her flame will keep me at peace
Cause I know your heart has not tarnished
It waits attentive at sea
Cause the fight goes on for a woman
To send the bones
Of Davey Jones
Down to sea.