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Silent Testament

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Silent Testament

Peg Saintcross

row upon row of white crosses face east
 aisle after aisle of stone monuments march in perfect cadence across the broad
lawns
green hills roll
 and valleys lie in recumbent silence
 a dense forest of tombstones

all hold the relics of our freedom fighters
 silent testament to their valor and pride of country

blood seeped from their wounds
 and soaked the hallowed ground
 at home and abroad, it did not matter
they fought fiercely
 for our freedom and for others

the Old Guard salutes
 the wreathes are laid
 and the people come

by the rocket's red glare
 the bombs bursting in air
and the flag is still there

 rest their souls
they have earned their peace
 God rest their souls