

black church homecoming poems

black church homecoming poems celebrate the vibrant history, faith, and unity found within African American congregations. These inspirational verses are an integral part of homecoming celebrations, honoring traditions, ancestors, and the enduring spirit of Black churches. Throughout this article, you'll discover the origins of homecoming events, the significance of poetry in these gatherings, techniques for writing meaningful poems, and examples of popular themes and styles. Explore how poetry strengthens community bonds, preserves cultural heritage, and uplifts souls during these special occasions. Whether you're searching for ideas, inspiration, or practical tips, this comprehensive guide will illuminate every aspect of black church homecoming poems and their lasting impact.

- Understanding Black Church Homecoming Traditions
- The Role of Poetry in Homecoming Celebrations
- Popular Themes in Black Church Homecoming Poems
- Writing and Sharing Homecoming Poems
- Examples and Styles of Homecoming Poetry
- Preserving Heritage Through Poetry

Understanding Black Church Homecoming Traditions

Homecoming in Black churches is a cherished annual event, bringing together current and former members to celebrate faith, family, and history. These gatherings often include worship services, music, communal meals, and special tributes. The tradition dates back generations, serving as a spiritual reunion and a time to honor the legacy of ancestors who shaped the church's journey. Black church homecoming poems are often featured during these events, capturing the essence of unity, resilience, and gratitude. The poems act as a bridge between past and present, reminding congregants of the values and milestones that define their spiritual home.

Historical Roots of Homecoming Events

Homecoming celebrations in African American communities have deep historical significance. Originating in the post-slavery era, these gatherings provided opportunities for scattered families to reconnect and

strengthen spiritual bonds. Churches became safe havens and communal centers, fostering unity and resilience amid adversity. Poetry emerged as a powerful medium to express collective triumphs, struggles, and faith, often woven into homecoming programs to inspire and uplift attendees.

Purpose and Meaning of Homecoming

The central purpose of homecoming is to celebrate community, honor the church's heritage, and reignite spiritual commitment. These events cultivate a sense of belonging, encouraging multigenerational participation and reflection. Black church homecoming poems play a vital role in these celebrations, articulating shared experiences, joys, and hopes for the future.

The Role of Poetry in Homecoming Celebrations

Poetry holds a special place in Black church homecoming traditions. Through evocative language and heartfelt expression, poems commemorate the church's legacy, highlight individual journeys, and inspire collective worship. During homecoming services, poets may perform original works or recite classic verses, engaging the congregation and setting a reverent tone for the festivities. Poetry can be woven into sermons, printed in programs, or presented as spoken word performances, amplifying the spiritual atmosphere and connecting hearts across generations.

Why Poetry Resonates in Black Churches

- Poetry is a time-honored form of storytelling and cultural preservation.
- Verses can communicate emotions and experiences that transcend ordinary speech.
- Poetry encourages reflection, healing, and celebration within the community.
- Spoken word and poetic readings add depth and meaning to homecoming worship.

Integration of Poetry into Homecoming Programs

Homecoming programs often feature poetry as a central element, whether through scheduled readings, interactive workshops, or collaborative performances. Poems may be written by church members, local poets, or special guests, and are tailored to reflect the congregation's history, spiritual milestones, and aspirations. This integration fosters creativity, engagement, and a deeper appreciation for the church's cultural and spiritual journey.

Popular Themes in Black Church Homecoming Poems

Black church homecoming poems explore a rich tapestry of themes reflecting faith, history, and community. These verses are crafted to resonate with listeners, evoking shared memories and inspiring hope. By focusing on universal and culturally specific topics, poets create works that unite and uplift the congregation during homecoming events.

Common Motifs and Subjects

- Family and ancestry
- Unity and togetherness
- Spiritual renewal and praise
- Remembrance of elders and trailblazers
- Overcoming adversity and celebrating triumphs
- Cultural heritage and legacy
- Hope for future generations

Examples of Poetic Imagery and Language

Poets often use vivid imagery, biblical references, and metaphors to convey powerful messages. Common poetic devices include rhythmic repetition, call-and-response structures, and gospel-inspired language. The tone ranges from solemn and reflective to joyful and exuberant, reflecting the dynamic spirit of Black church homecoming celebrations.

Writing and Sharing Homecoming Poems

Creating meaningful black church homecoming poems requires thoughtful reflection, creativity, and an understanding of the congregation's values. Whether you're an experienced poet or a first-time writer, several strategies can help you craft verses that resonate with your audience and capture the essence of homecoming.

Tips for Writing Homecoming Poems

1. Reflect on personal and communal experiences within the church.
2. Incorporate biblical passages or spiritual references.
3. Use language that evokes emotion, imagery, and connection.
4. Focus on themes of unity, heritage, and perseverance.
5. Experiment with different poetic forms, such as free verse, rhymed couplets, or spoken word.
6. Invite feedback from church members to ensure authenticity and relevance.

Sharing and Presenting Poems at Homecoming

Poems can be shared in various ways during homecoming events. Public readings allow poets to engage the congregation directly, while printed versions can be included in programs or newsletters. Interactive workshops encourage community participation, fostering creativity and dialogue. Many churches also record performances for future generations, preserving the poetic legacy of each homecoming celebration.

Examples and Styles of Homecoming Poetry

Black church homecoming poems encompass a wide range of styles, from traditional hymnal verses to contemporary spoken word. The diversity of poetic expression reflects the richness of African American church culture and the personal touch of each poet. Examining examples and styles can inspire new works and enhance appreciation for the art form.

Traditional Styles and Structures

Traditional homecoming poems often employ structured rhyme schemes, biblical allusions, and hymn-inspired language. These verses are ideal for formal readings and can evoke a sense of nostalgia and reverence. Poets may draw upon classic forms such as sonnets, ballads, or acrostics, adapting them to the themes of faith and community.

Contemporary and Spoken Word Approaches

Modern poets frequently use spoken word, free verse, and performance poetry to convey powerful messages. These styles allow for greater flexibility, emotional intensity, and audience interaction. Spoken word performances are especially popular during homecoming celebrations, enabling poets to connect deeply with listeners through tone, gesture, and rhythm.

Preserving Heritage Through Poetry

Black church homecoming poems serve as vital tools for preserving history, culture, and faith. By documenting personal and collective experiences through verse, congregations safeguard their spiritual legacy and inspire future generations. Poetry acts as a living archive, capturing moments of joy, struggle, and triumph that define the church's journey.

Legacy and Intergenerational Impact

Poems written and shared during homecoming events often become treasured keepsakes, passed down through families and church communities. These works reinforce a sense of identity, belonging, and continuity, ensuring that the values and stories of previous generations remain alive and relevant. Poetry nurtures pride and connection, fortifying the bonds that unite the Black church community.

Encouraging Creative Expression

Homecoming celebrations provide a unique platform for creative expression, inviting poets of all ages to contribute their voices. This encouragement fosters artistic growth, self-discovery, and collaboration within the church. By valuing poetry as a central element of homecoming, congregations affirm the importance of storytelling and artistic heritage in shaping their spiritual journey.

Questions and Answers About Black Church Homecoming Poems

Q: What are black church homecoming poems?

A: Black church homecoming poems are verses written to celebrate the annual homecoming events in African American churches. These poems honor the church's heritage, faith, unity, and the legacy of ancestors, serving as inspirational highlights during the celebrations.

Q: Why is poetry important during church homecoming events?

A: Poetry is important because it articulates the shared experiences, values, and emotions of the congregation. It fosters unity, preserves cultural heritage, and adds a creative and spiritual dimension to homecoming celebrations.

Q: What themes are commonly found in black church homecoming poems?

A: Common themes include family, ancestry, unity, spiritual renewal, overcoming adversity, remembrance of elders, and hope for future generations. These topics resonate deeply with congregants during homecoming events.

Q: How can someone write a meaningful homecoming poem?

A: To write a meaningful homecoming poem, reflect on personal and communal experiences, incorporate spiritual references, use evocative language, and focus on themes relevant to the church community. Seek feedback to ensure the poem is authentic and impactful.

Q: What styles are popular for homecoming poetry?

A: Both traditional styles, like rhymed verses and hymnal language, and contemporary forms, such as spoken word and free verse, are popular. Many poets blend styles to suit the tone and audience of the homecoming event.

Q: How can poems be shared during church homecoming?

A: Poems can be shared through public readings, printed programs, newsletters, workshops, and recorded performances. These methods engage the congregation and preserve the poetic legacy of homecoming celebrations.

Q: Who typically writes black church homecoming poems?

A: Poems may be written by church members, local poets, invited guests, or even youth groups. The goal is to reflect the experiences and values of the congregation, making each poem unique and relevant.

Q: What role do elders play in homecoming poetry?

A: Elders are often honored in homecoming poems as custodians of tradition and faith. Their stories,

wisdom, and contributions inspire verses that reinforce respect, gratitude, and continuity within the church community.

Q: Can poetry help preserve church history?

A: Yes, poetry serves as a creative archive that documents the church's journey, significant events, and spiritual milestones. Poems passed down through generations help maintain a strong sense of identity and heritage.

Q: Why are homecoming poems significant for younger generations?

A: Homecoming poems impart values, history, and a sense of belonging to younger members. They encourage creative expression, foster pride, and help connect youth to the enduring legacy of the Black church community.

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Black Church Homecoming Poems: Celebrating Faith, Family, and Community

Introduction:

The vibrant tapestry of Black culture is richly woven with threads of faith, family, and community. Nowhere is this more powerfully expressed than during the homecoming celebrations in Black churches. These joyous occasions, often marked by soulful gospel music, heartfelt sermons, and reunions long overdue, inspire a potent outpouring of emotion. This post delves into the world of Black church homecoming poems, exploring their significance, themes, and the emotional resonance they hold for those who cherish these deeply spiritual events. We'll examine examples, discuss the poetic devices employed, and provide insights into how these poems capture the spirit of homecoming. Prepare to be moved by the beauty and power of these lyrical expressions of faith and community.

The Spiritual Heart of Homecoming: Understanding the Context

Homecoming services in Black churches are more than just annual events; they are sacred rituals steeped in history and tradition. These gatherings represent a powerful affirmation of faith, a celebration of shared heritage, and a reaffirmation of bonds within the church community. The poems written to commemorate these events often reflect this multifaceted significance. They speak to the spiritual journey, the enduring power of faith in the face of adversity, and the unwavering support found within the church family. Understanding this context is crucial to appreciating the depth and meaning embedded within these poetic expressions.

The Role of Poetry in Black Church Culture

Poetry has long played a vital role in Black church culture, serving as a powerful medium for expressing spiritual experiences, social commentary, and communal identity. From spirituals to gospel hymns, the rhythmic power of language has been integral to worship and celebration. Homecoming poems extend this tradition, capturing the unique atmosphere and emotional weight of these special occasions. They offer a space for reflection, remembrance, and the articulation of shared feelings within the congregation.

Themes Commonly Explored in Black Church Homecoming Poems

Black church homecoming poems often explore a range of interwoven themes:

1. Reunion and Remembrance:

Many poems focus on the joy of reuniting with loved ones, celebrating the enduring bonds of family and friendship forged within the church community. They often evoke memories of past homecomings, highlighting the continuity of tradition and the lasting impact of the church on individuals' lives.

2. Gratitude and Thanksgiving:

Homecoming is a time for expressing gratitude for God's blessings, acknowledging the challenges overcome, and celebrating the resilience of the community. Poems often reflect this spirit of

thanksgiving, emphasizing the importance of faith and perseverance.

3. Faith and Spiritual Growth:

The poems frequently delve into the spiritual journeys of individuals, reflecting on personal growth, the strengthening of faith, and the unwavering support found within the church family. They underscore the church's role as a sanctuary and a source of spiritual nourishment.

4. Community and Unity:

A prominent theme is the unity and solidarity within the Black church community. Poems celebrate the shared heritage, the collective strength, and the enduring bonds that tie members together. They highlight the importance of community in navigating life's challenges and celebrating life's triumphs.

Poetic Devices and Styles in Homecoming Poems

The poems themselves often utilize a range of poetic devices to enhance their emotional impact and lyrical beauty. These include:

Metaphor and Simile: Comparing the church to a haven, or faith to a guiding light, enriches the meaning and adds depth to the poems.

Imagery: Vivid descriptions of the church, the people, and the atmosphere evoke strong emotional responses in the reader.

Rhythm and Rhyme: The use of rhythmic patterns and rhymes enhances the musicality and memorability of the poems, reflecting the influence of gospel music.

Alliteration and Assonance: The repetition of sounds creates a sense of flow and musicality, adding to the overall aesthetic effect.

Examples of Poetic Themes in Black Church Homecoming

While specific poems are not readily available online in a compiled, easily accessible format, the themes discussed above can be readily imagined within the context of a homecoming. Imagine poems speaking of the "jubilant echoes of gospel hymns," the "warm embrace of long-lost friends," or the "spiritual nourishment found in shared prayer." These evocative phrases capture the essence

of the homecoming experience and provide a glimpse into the themes commonly explored in these poems.

Conclusion

Black church homecoming poems stand as powerful testaments to the enduring strength of faith, family, and community within Black culture. They offer a window into the rich spiritual tapestry of these celebrations, capturing the joy, gratitude, and unwavering belief that define these significant events. Through evocative language and powerful imagery, these poems preserve the spirit of homecoming for generations to come, reminding us of the enduring power of faith and the importance of community.

FAQs

1. Where can I find examples of Black church homecoming poems? Unfortunately, there isn't a central repository for these poems online. However, you may find examples by contacting Black churches directly or searching for relevant anthologies of Black religious poetry.
2. Are these poems typically written by members of the congregation? Yes, many homecoming poems are written by members of the congregation, reflecting their personal experiences and perspectives. Others may be commissioned or written by poets connected to the church community.
3. What is the typical style or form of these poems? There's no single style or form. They can range from free verse to more structured forms like sonnets or hymns, reflecting the diverse poetic styles and preferences of their authors.
4. How are these poems typically used during the homecoming service? They might be read aloud during the service, incorporated into the program, or even projected onto a screen for the congregation to read along.
5. Can anyone write a Black church homecoming poem? Absolutely! While deeply rooted in Black church culture, anyone inspired by the themes and spirit of homecoming can write a poem expressing their feelings and reflections.

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Rita Dove...the plaintive rhapsodies of an imprisoned Elderidge Knight . . . The postmodern artistry of Yusef Komunyakaa. Here, too, is a landmark exploration of lesser-known artists whose efforts birthed the Harlem Renaissance and the Black Arts movements--and changed forever our national literature and the course of America itself. Meticulously researched, thoughtfully structured, *The Vintage Book of African-American Poetry* is a collection of inestimable value to students, educators, and all those interested in the ever-evolving tradition that is American poetry.

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black church homecoming poems: *Homecoming* Sue Ellen Frye, 2008-06 You are invited to Homecoming at Bethel Baptist Church in Shadyside, NC. The service promises an inspiring sermon and unexpected comedy. Get ready to enjoy a covered dish meal and to learn some of the cooks' recipes. After Homecoming, meet Estelle who sees a Naked Man in a distant yard. Next observe a beekeeper and his wife who care for The Last Swarm and spend a morning with Constance who insists on perfection in *Still Life*. Finally travel with two retirees who downsize and learn when to let go in *Granny's Bowling Ball*. EXCERPT FROM *Homecoming* Loretta Wiseman moved the coconut cake one more time. It took up almost a whole shelf in the refrigerator. Thank goodness tomorrow is Homecoming Sunday, she thought. I won't have to shift the milk carton and tea pitcher around this Tupperware cake holder anymore. Folks at Bethel Baptist looked forward to Loretta's coconut cake on Homecoming Sunday. Tuesday night she had mixed the shredded coconut, sugar, and sour cream. On Wednesday she made the cake layers and stacked them with the coconut filling. Then, it was a four-day wait. Keeping her husband Luke away from the cake was almost as much trouble as making room for it in the refrigerator. Loretta pulled a package of Mom & Pop's country ham from behind the Tupperware cake cover. She balanced it on a carton of eggs in her right hand and closed the refrigerator. Loretta had worked at The Posy Patch until noon. Saturday was usually her day off, but there was a big funeral at the Presbyterian Church tomorrow. She had spent the morning making the casket spray of red roses and baby's breath. It was one of the biggest ones she had ever done. Loretta filled a pot with water and placed it on the large rear burner of her aging electric stove. She punched the high button. The eggs could boil while the ham was frying. Tomorrow morning she would get up early to devil the eggs, bake biscuits for the ham, and cook two packages of limas she had frozen back in July. Mandy, her daughter, would be coming tomorrow morning with her fruit salad. Mandy lived in Winston-Salem with her boyfriend Richard. Loretta and Luke liked Richard, a Wake Forest Law School graduate, but they did not approve of Mandy living with him. Four years ago when Mandy told her parents she was moving into Richard's new house, Loretta and Luke had raised a fuss. It was worse than when Mandy decided to transfer from a small Baptist college to the University in Chapel Hill. That university was where she picked up so many of her liberal ideas. Mandy came home telling Loretta and Luke which wine to drink with chicken, pork, or beef. Iced tea or strong coffee had always been good enough for them. She talked about abortion rights, women's rights, and gay rights. Luke and Loretta thought she sounded like a leftist. Their daughter did have a good paying job thanks to the interview her college arranged with a bank. Until she landed that position, Mandy had vowed she would go to New York City to find a job. Loretta and Luke were thankful their only child did not end up in the North. Winston-Salem was only an hour and a half away. Mandy had not spent a night under her parent's roof in four years. Luke had made it clear to his daughter she would not share a bed in his house with a man who was not her husband. You're twenty-three. Why don't you get married? he had asked her. We're not ready. We want to

make sure this'll work. Mandy had explained. As Loretta fried ham for her biscuits, she thought of her daughter's words. She was past being angry and hurt with Mandy. But she really didn't understand today's young people. Seemed like they were not ready to face the real world. The phone rang and interrupted her thoughts. She glanced at the stove clock and saw its hands at 5:30. Luke's calling to find out what's for supper, thought Loretta. Her hands ached. He'd have to be happy with a BLT tonight. He could save his appetite for Homecoming. Hello, Loretta said as sh

black church homecoming poems: Cheryl'S Poems Cheryl Swofford, 2018-02-28 Cheryl's Poems range from the autobiographical, with a touch of Southern gothic, to the unknown future and a little bit of everything in between (aliens, animals, coaches, crazy aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters, drugs, drunks, Elvis, the famous and infamous, geniuses, grandparents, hackers, heroes, hunters, hypocrites, judges, lawyers, lovers, players, preachers, presidents, prisoners, prostitutes, refugees, robots, royals, scientists, singers, soldiers, teachers, and so on). Have you ever been infatuated, in love, and/or in lust? Might you be interested in life in the rural South during segregation? And the deaths of President Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr., Robert Kennedy, or Che Guevara? Has anyone in your family ever been involved in conflict or divorce? Are you interested in adventure, family history, any history, -isms, literature, mythology, nature, peace, politics, pollution, religion, science, sports, or war? Have you wondered about the supernatural? Are you concerned with justice and rights? With the environment? With the future of the earth? Have you ever felt abused, bullied, depressed, discriminated against, sexually harassed, or insecure? (Who hasn't?) Every emotion and something for everyone are in this collection of poems. Cheryl was a ridge runner as a girl growing up in the mountains of North Carolina but has since been around the block. She has lived in seven US states and on the island of St. Lucia. For a year, she crossed the border from El Paso, Texas, to work in a hospital in Juarez in Mexico. She called Atlanta home for fifteen years when she saw and met several famous people she tells about. She lives back in her small North Carolina hometown, which has never been like Mayberry (and her daddy wasn't like Andy). She is a committed activist for the environment and justice and is interested in history, literature, people, and science the past, present, and future which are all reflected in her poetry.

black church homecoming poems: Poems of the American South David Biespiel, 2014-08-05 This one-of-a-kind collection of poems about the American South ranges over four centuries of its dramatic history. The arc of poetry of the South, from slave songs to Confederate hymns to Civil War ballads, from Reconstruction turmoil to the Agrarian movement to the dazzling poetry of the New South, is richly varied and historically vibrant. No other region of the United States has been as mythologized as the South, nor contained as many fascinating, beguiling, and sometimes infuriating contradictions. Poems of the American South includes poems both by Southerners and by famous observers of the South who hailed from elsewhere. These range from Herman Melville, Walt Whitman, Edgar Allan Poe, and Francis Scott Key through Langston Hughes, Robert Penn Warren, Wallace Stevens, Elizabeth Bishop, James Dickey, and Donald Justice, and include a host of living poets as well: Wendell Berry, Rita Dove, Sandra Cisneros, Yusef Komunyakaa, Naomi Shihab Nye, C. D. Wright, Natasha Trethewey, and many more. Organized thematically, the anthology places poems from past centuries in fruitful dialogue with a diverse array of modern voices who are redefining the South with a verve that is reinvigorating American poetry as a whole.

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given potential trapped within you. If you have been frustrated by your dreams, ideas and visions, this book will activate your hidden treasures and ignite the wheels of your spiritual productivity. It will release a path to personal fulfillment, purpose and efficiency. This book imposes an array of thoughts that inspires one to be close to family and loved ones. It is a compilation of short stories and poems about life's tribulation. Furthermore, this book contains salutations, addresses for special occasions, annual days, spirited welcomes and responses with general presentations and introductions. A 'must have' for ministers, leaders, church workers, libraries, speakers, and followers of Christ. This author has written this book from his past experiences and involvements with a consortium of churches from Louisiana to California. These inspirational works can be useful to those who never tire in kingdom building to bring forward God's work.

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women who sought to break into male fields, women whose personae and work link the radical sixties to earlier cultural traditions, and those who consciously confronted power structures and demanded change. - from publisher information.

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Discusses blues, jazz, and rap as music and poetry

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black church homecoming poems: How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place (from "Requiem") Johannes Brahms, Billie Nastelin, Organ and piano duet teams will appreciate Billie Nastelin's skillful arrangement of the beautiful *How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place* from the Brahms Requiem. Each player has opportunities with both melody and accompaniment, and congregations and audiences will request this over and over. Two copies of the music are included. Also arranged for organ/piano duet by Nastelin: *And the Glory of the Lord*, from *Messiah* (GOPD9901),

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study. -- James R. Barrett, Journal of American Ethnic History Publication of this work was supported in part by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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achievement, this Concise Companion is a suitable crown to the astonishing production in African American literature and criticism that has swept over American literary studies in the last two decades. It offers an enormous range of writers--from Sojourner Truth to Frederick Douglass, from Zora Neale Hurston to Ralph Ellison, and from Toni Morrison to August Wilson. It contains entries on major works (including synopses of novels), such as Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, Richard Wright's *Native Son*, and Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*. It also incorporates information on literary characters such as Bigger Thomas, Coffin Ed Johnson, Kunta Kinte, Sula Peace, as well as on character types such as Aunt Jemima, Brer Rabbit, John Henry, Stackolee, and the trickster. Icons of black culture are addressed, including vivid details about the lives of Muhammad Ali, John Coltrane, Marcus Garvey, Jackie Robinson, John Brown, and Harriet Tubman. Here, too, are general articles on poetry, fiction, and drama; on autobiography, slave narratives, Sunday School literature, and oratory; as well as on a wide spectrum of related topics. Compact yet thorough, this handy volume gathers works from a vast array of sources--from the black periodical press to women's clubs--making it one of the most substantial guides available on the growing, exciting world of African American literature.

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number of industrial economies are competing in the global market, locked in a struggle that revolves around technological ingenuity. The *Lever of Riches*, with its keen analysis derived from a sweeping survey of creativity throughout history, offers telling insights into the question of how Western economies can maintain, and developing nations can unlock, their creative potential.

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black church homecoming poems: *Homecoming Heroes* Peter Reese, 1992-01-31 It is a sad and shaming but indisputable fact that the reception according to British soldiers on returning to civilian life has for centuries been little short of disgraceful, and even in this more enlightened age compares unfavourably with that of many other countries. In *Homecoming Heroes* Peter Reese examines the lot of British veteran (often still quite a young man) on leaving the Armed Forces and assesses the chances of finding suitable employment after his discharge. His survey covers a wide canvas, going back to the earliest days of the British Army and reveals a sorry tale in which neglect was often the only alternative to downright hostility. It is not a story to swell the British breast with pride. The efforts of Charles II, founder of Chelsea Royal Hospital, and later those of the benevolent Marquis of Granby notwithstanding, it was not until the later part of the 19th century that an awakening of social conscience stirred certain philanthropic individuals into action. Ironically Government reaction was not to the veterans advantage: 'If the matter is now in private hands' they argues, 'why should we interfere?' Mass conscription in two world wars has helped considerable to help break down this uncaring viewpoint, but much, as Peter Reese forcefully points out, remains to be done. Let us hope that this timely book will help ameliorate the lot of those about to be cast upon a shrinking job market as a result of the recently announced defence cuts.

black church homecoming poems: *International Who's Who in Poetry 2004* Europa Publications, 2003 Provides up-to-date profiles on the careers of leading and emerging poets.

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