

*The Poetry Society of Texas - San Jacinto Chapter  
Edward J. Clay - Poet of the Month - June 2008*



My name is Edward Clay and I am a lapidary artisan and bench jeweler. I have been creating poetry since I was about age 40 and after I had passed beyond what I call my dark period, my poetry started to talk about what I know best. That is making works of skill and art as well as teaching said skills to others.

As a background I graduated from high school and immediately went into the U.S. Marines, serving 6 years in California and Okinawa. After military service I apprenticed, with two different highly qualified jewelry artisans.

I am a life member of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society and a yearly demonstrator at the society's annual show. I am also a regular teacher at the H.G.M.S. shop in basic and intermediate bench jewelry fabrication as well as teaching a class in stone

BE GRATEFUL MY SOUL: AN ARTISAN'S PRAYER

By Edward J. Clay

Be quiet my heart  
while I listen  
to the sound  
of the earth  
as I walk on it.

Be sharp my eyes  
as I look  
for the material  
I seek.

Be clever my mind  
as I decide  
how to best cut  
this material.

Be nimble my fingers  
while I grind, sand,  
and polish stone  
into art.

Finally, be grateful my soul  
for the gift of creativity.