

*Joseph T. Cox*

## **Fathers and Sons**

—for 1LT Matthew D. Cox

My boy lives a half a world away, a man  
leading other men, but he will always be my boy.  
I see curly blond hair and sky-blue eyes  
sparkle, a face filled with smile as he  
plucks a big bass from a Tennessee pond.  
I see the tense stare, the elbow held high,  
as he hangs in on first curve balls of Babe Ruth.  
I see the sweetness of a face in the glow of midsummer  
fireworks, and long eyelashes on sleeping lids  
as I carry him to bed and lay him next to Boo.  
I am proud that he is a man leading men  
and miss him because he is so far away,  
but what I miss most is the little boy who  
will always and never again be my little boy.

**Joseph T. Cox** is Headmaster of the Haverford School in Haverford, Pennsylvania. His poetry collection *Garden's Close* was published in 2002. He is a frequent contributor to **WLA**.