

JOSEPH T. COX

To Send Forth

*In Memory of 1LT Donaldson Preston Tillar, III
Killed in Action on 27 February 1991 in Iraq, aged 25 years*

I feel a father's grief
remembering you when
you were my son's age
the night he told me
about your death.

Relaying our neighbor's
news of you, my son, my son
and you, the ghost
of what my son will become.

On the day after
the last day
of the last war,
you flew somewhere
south of Babylon.

I imagine your surprise
as you tried to see your legs
in the burning wreckage
as you sunk into the melting sand.