



## The Spouse Squad

*Little did I know-- when my wife became a resident in a certain nursing care facility-- that I would join the ranks of a special cadre of visiting spouses there. A few others, some daughters and sons of residents, join in the frequent trek.*

*Daily, members of this caring squad arrive at their post. They don't come in formation, nor do they wear a uniform, but each one comes quietly to be with their loved one who now resides in long-term care.*

*When at their post, they lovingly tend to them-- by a whisper in their ear..... stroking their hair..... pushing their wheelchair to a different spot..... listening to their stories..... feeding them their lunch..... squeezing their hand..... assuring them of love..... sometimes, just sitting beside them..... and, often-- a tender kiss.*

*Such caring and faithfulness must be what our Creator intended where it is written, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh." (Genesis 2:24). Serving daily on the Spouse Squad is also the living out of one's marriage promise, spoken many years ago: "I take you-- for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health--- to love and cherish for as long as we both shall breathe the air of life."*

*This squad, with their hearts of love, quietly serves day by day.*

*Godspeed, Spouse Squad*

*(by J. A. Blaine)*