BIG AND RICH 8th of November 1965

*Narration*: *Hello, I'm Kris Kristofferson...On November 8th, 1965, the 173rd Airborne Brigade on Operation Hump, War Zone D, in Vietnam, were ambushed by over 1200 VC.  48 American soldiers lost their lives (that day).  Severely wounded and riskin' his own life, Lawrence Joel, a medic, was the first livin' black man since the Spanish-American War to receive the United States Medal Of Honor for savin' so many lives in the midst of battle that day.  Our friend Niles Harris, retired 25 years, United States Army, the guy who gave Big Kenny his top hat, was one of the wounded who lived.  This song is his story.  Caught in the action of kill or be killed, greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for (his brother) (a friend).*  
*1st Verse*

Said good-bye to his mama  
As he left South Dakota  
To fight for the Red, White, and Blue  
He was nineteen and green  
With a new M-16  
Just doin' what he had to do  
He was dropped in the jungle  
Where the choppers would rumble  
With the smell of napalm in the air  
Then the sergeant said, 'Look up ahead'  
Like a dark evil cloud  
1200 came down  
On him and 29 more  
They fought for their lives  
But most of them died  
In the 173rd Airborne  
  
*Chorus*  
  
On the 8th of November  
The angels were cryin'  
As they carried his brothers away  
With the fire rainin' down  
And the hell all around  
There were few men left standin' that day  
Saw the eagle fly through a clear, blue sky  
1965  
The 8th of November  
(The 8th of November) (the 8th of November)  
Appendix #15a

*2nd Verse*  
  
Now he's 58  
And his ponytail's gray  
But the battle still plays in his head  
He limps when he walks  
But he's strong when he talks  
'Bout the shrapnel they left in his leg  
He puts on a gray suit  
Over his Airborne tattoo  
And he ties it on one time a year  
And remembers the fallen  
As he orders a tall one  
And swallows it down with his tears  
  
(Repeat Chorus)  
  
*Bridge*  
  
Saw the eagle fly through a clear, blue sky  
1965 (1965)  
  
(Repeat Chorus)  
  
*Tag*  
  
Said good-bye to his mama  
As he left South Dakota  
To fight for the Red, White, and Blue  
He was nineteen and green  
With a new M-16  
Just doin' what he had to do