

### **Daddy Came Home to the War**

One year after a segregated air force  
discharged my father, honest and faithful

service completed, he married my mother.  
No shotguns or dishonor, just doing right,

onlookers all bearing witness with one eye  
open. So many of the flames in this life

flare and extinguish at once, as the dream  
of sporting wings, *flyboy*, awakens a fireman,

or a man becomes husband and father  
on the same day. He puts out fires

where there are fires, knows why they burn.