

## A Prayer

Are you hanging out with your PT-boat mates  
playing dominoes out by the sea salt misted porch  
or Texas Hold'em staking your hard-earned  
Cuban pesos... Winner takes all...  
or maybe jamming with Ray and Nat  
those old Big Band tunes y'all loved  
from the Lucky Strike Hit Parade  
you used to woo the girls with  
at the USO balls at  
the Hotel Nacional.

Look down now and then  
to check up on your boy  
crawling on all fours on  
the sawdust-covered tile floor  
trying to read The Spirit's  
balloons. Leave your  
espresso cup and Meerschaum  
just a sec  
to say to me:

“You're alright, kid...

I'm proud of you.”