RIC KAPOSTA, the author of the poem "The Debt That's Owed," is a Houstonian whose artistic journey has led him through many disciplines of art. He is known chiefly for his sculptural work, which include the Harris County War Memorial Eagle at Bear Creek Park, the Blacksmith sculpture at Minute Maid Field, and the Cowboy Cook in the collection of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo at Reliant Park. Eric is also a painter, designer, singer, musician, and is now adding poetry to his interests. "The Debt That's Owed" came about as a result of a storm that came through Houston in his neighborhood of tall trees. The intensity of the thunder and lightning, which could have sent a tree cutting a deadly swath through his house, made him focus on the terror one must feel in combat.

"At any time a round could find a fox hole or an aircraft or a ship and you would not be able to do anything about it, except pray your number will not be up. In the middle of the night during the storm, I wrote the key phrase and the next morning the rest of the poem flowed out as if it had a life of its own. I feel compelled to get this message out and I don't think it could be any timelier. With the country unified in acknowledging the sacrifice of our military, maybe this poem will strike a chord and remind people that for many, the war is never completely over."

