

A Poem for Our Colonel of Cheer

*We gather here to celebrate, our leader bold and bright,
You served the Army near and far, with purpose, strength, and might.*

*From mission fields across the seas, to work back on our shore,
You've given heart and soul to all, we couldn't ask for more.*

*We'd hear you, before we'd see you, your laugh would fill the air,
And suddenly the room felt warm, 'cause you were standing there.*

*With lollies to share freely, and a twinkle in your eye,
You cheered us on through every task and lifted spirits high.*

*Your sayings? Oh, we'll miss them, each quirky, famous line,
"Where have you been all my life?" delivered right on time.*

*And when you said, "Just going to Scotland," we'd smile, because we knew
A wee break was in order, classic, through and through!*

*"Winner, winner, chicken dinner!" you'd shout with cheeky grin,
Whenever all the HoDs knew - that online training must begin!*

*And with your Colonel Sanders charm, white hair, moustache in place,
You brought such joy and humour, that lit up every space.*

*A family man through all your days, devoted, kind, and true.
For Wendy, kids, and grandkids, there's now time just for you.*

*Holidays with the caravan, or a cruise upon the sea,
You'll now have time to rest, explore, and live life fully free.*

*Through every long day, every choice, your care shone bright and true,
You lifted hearts, inspired us all, and made us better too.*

*A man of faith, a steady guide, your courage set the tone,
You led with vision, heart, and grit, we never walked alone.*

*Your strength built teams, brought results, and helped us rise above.
You showed what leadership can be, when powered first, by love.*

*So as you step to brighter days and well-earned rest ahead,
Know that gratitude surrounds you, for every word you've said.*

*We'll miss you more than words can say, but smile as you depart,
For you leave behind a legacy, that's written on our hearts.*

*All the best in your retirement, your impact will remain,
In every heart you lifted and each life where hope was gained.*

*May family, joy, and quiet moments, bless you more and more,
And your faithful heart will find the rest, you've truly laboured for.*

*We pray the years be filled with calm, adventure, grace, and cheer,
May love surround your journey, through each cherished, golden year.*

*So from all of us, dear Rodney, our heartfelt thanks we send,
For the love and strength you've shared with us—farewell from us, your **friends!***