

## *A Beacon of Hope*

On a brilliant autumn evening  
The boats swayed gently upon the resting bay.  
Kites ended their secure patterns in the sky  
And the sun retired slowly....another perfect day.

Seagulls zoomed in to feast upon final scraps as  
The fishermen cleaned their tools awaiting a new morn.  
A nation waited in anticipation for the Battle of the Bay and  
Commuters jockeyed for position on their journeys to their homes.

But as the clock passed five, the serenity was disturbed forever.  
The slumbering earth awakened and flexed its mighty muscles.  
Buildings swayed, waves whipped, ferries rocked, and  
The indomitable Bay Bridge faltered under incredible pressure.

Devastation prevailed on a once perfect night  
As dreams and visions were shattered by the shake.  
Homes were ruined, businesses destroyed as horror filled the sky.  
Lights were out, people roamed the streets in confusion, then slowly joined together.

The twilight of this night symbolized the times  
When we feel our light has been extinguished forever.  
The sky is dark, but our lives seem even darker.  
But time goes on, the wounds are healed and we continue to live our lives.

Months later, remnants of the blackened ruin clutter vacant lots.  
Four story buildings supported by thick wooden braces stand courageously  
While lifeless homes sit precariously on the shifted soil,  
Their boarded windows, like giant band-aids, peer at homes miraculously undisturbed.

As this Christmas season approaches, the City by the Bay  
Symbolizes a rebirth of our youthful dreams.  
The bridge is reopened, buildings are rebuilt and  
Innocent victims valiantly put their lives back together.

Morning comes, the sun rises on the horizon,  
Hammers keep the beat as Christmas Carols drift through the Marina.  
A great city rebuilds, learns from its painful lesson  
And moves on to attack an uncertain future.

From this tragic lesson, let all of us share a piece of  
This city that shines as a beacon of hope during this holiday season.  
May we energize our spirits to appreciate what we have,  
Embracing our loved ones with a spirit of hope and strength.

**Frank Allocco-Christmas 1989**