A Friend of Mine Died Today

(for Sarah)

A friend of mine died today.
We hadn't met
until today.
When the paramedics wheeled him into the
ER
Code Red!
Code Blue!
"imminent demise" they call it.
Circling the drain, on the way out.

His name was Jack,
his wife Sarah.
They had some kids.
I didn't know them.

Ventricular Fibrillation is a strange thing.
A not-so-sudden death.
Reversible sometimes
with defibrillator and drugs.

"We have a rhythm...
a pulse...
a BP ...
He's coming around."

"Do you hear me jack?"
They opened and I saw in his eyes
that he had seen it.
I knew he knew--the other side.
He had danced the Angelic dance.
Saw beyond his little self.
Tasted Eternity.

And now, unable to share his words,
through intubated airway,
he smiled the smile,
winked at me,
and rode the flat-line home.

L.A. Yarbrough