I look forward to nine holes of golf
at day’s end,
when others are absent
and there is only the course and me.
Score card and pencil remain in the bag.
Camaraderie and competition are in the past.
The grass is soft and easy on the feet,
a verdant welcome mat.
My swing has gone,
but not the challenge.

If I par I walk off
rejuvenated by silent applause.
A shank doesn’t hurt
and no alibis are needed.
A good shot goes unnoticed
except by insects hit by this meteor.
With no pressure to win,
distance is less important than accuracy.
On the ninth, hazards are avoided and
I feel like I’ve climbed a mountain.

H. Harvey Gass, MD

Dr. Gass (ΑΩΑ, University of Michigan, 1941) is retired from practice as a clinical professor of Neurosurgery at Wayne State Medical School. His address is: 6155 E. Longview Drive, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.