I wanna sing this song for a friend of ours His picture was in all the papers
They said that a legend had passed
The late evenin' news did a special report
And swore that his mem'ry would last
They're playin' his records all weekend
Praisin' the life that he lived
Nashville is rough on the livin'
But she really speaks well of the dead.

The wife that they interviewed cried
Is the same one who left him last fall
And the record producer who called him a hero
Is the one who wouldn't answer his calls
The ladies they sit over coffee
Braggin' bout sharin' his bed
They didn't want him around when he's livin'
But he's sure a good friend when he's dead.

They observed twenty seconds of silence At the Opry on Saturday night And they're searchin' the bars and the basements For some souvenir of his life.

They're plannin' a book for September Showin' his plain country roots
Any they're sellin' the rights to the movie And the Hall of Fame's gettin' his boots
At the funeral somebody recited a poem
That told how he suffered and bled
Nashville is rough on the livin'
But she really speaks well of the dead.

Yeah, Nashville is rough on the livin'
But she really speaks well of the dead...