

Johnny Cash - Highway Patrolman

Tom: D

My name is Joe Roberts I work for the state
 I'm a sergeant out of Perrineville barracks number eight
 I always done an honest job as honest as I could
 I got a brother named Frankie and Frankie ain't no good
 Now ever since we was young kids it's been the same come down
 I get a call on the shortwave Frankie's in trouble downtown
 Well if it was any other man, I'd put him straight away
 But when it's your brother sometimes you look the other way
 Yeah me and Frankie laughin' and drinkin'
 Nothin' feels better than blood on blood
 Takin' turns dancin' with Maria as the band
 Played "Night of the Johnstown Flood"
 I catch him when he's strayin' like any brother would
 Man turns his back on his family well he just ain't no good

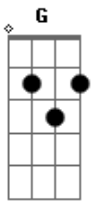
Well Frankie went in the army back in 1965
 I got a farm deferment, settled down, took Maria for my wife
 But them wheat prices kept on droppin'
 till it was like we were gettin' robbed
 Frankie came home in '68, and me, I took this job
 Yeah we're laughin' and drinkin'
 Nothin' feels better than blood on blood
 Takin' turns dancin' with Maria
 as the band Played "Night of the Johnstown Flood"
 I catch him when he's strayin'
 teach him how to walk that line
 Man turns his back on his family he ain't no friend of mine

Well the night was like any other, I got a call `bout quarter
 to nine
 There was trouble in a roadhouse out on the Michigan line
 There was a kid lyin' on the floor lookin' bad bleedin' hard
 from his head
 There was a girl cry'n' at a table and it was Frank, they said
 Well I went out and I jumped in my car and I hit the lights
 Well I musta done one hundred and ten through Michigan county
 that night
 It was out at the crossroads, down `round Willow bank
 Seen a Buick with Ohio plates. Behind the wheel was Frank
 Well I chased him through them county roads
 Till a sign said "Canadian border five miles from here"
 I pulled over the side of the highway and watched his tail-
 lights disappear

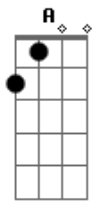
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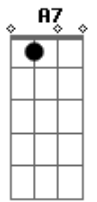
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