

Essay

Growing up as a military child has shaped the way I see the world, especially when it comes to understanding what true heroism looks like. My name is Alaina Rose Granillo, I'm 13 years old and in 8th grade, and my whole life has been filled with constant change. Moving from place to place has never been easy. I've had to say goodbye to friends more times than I can count, leaving behind memories and connections just when they start to feel permanent. Each move feels like starting over, and while it has made me stronger, it has also shown me just how much sacrifice comes with being part of a military family.

The heroes in my life are not just the ones you see in movies or read about in history books, they are right in front of me every day. My dad is one of them. Being in the military means he is often called away, sometimes overseas, and each time he leaves, a part of me feels scared. There's always that gut feeling, the fear of the unknown, wondering if he'll be safe and when I'll see him again. Deployment is never easy, not for him and not for our family. It takes courage for him to leave everything behind to serve our country, and it takes strength for our family to continue on while he's gone.

The sacrifices my dad and others in the military make go far beyond what most people see. They miss birthdays, holidays, and everyday moments that many people take for granted. They risk their lives to protect others, putting the safety of the nation before their own comfort. As a military child, I've learned that service doesn't just come from the person in uniform, it comes from their families too. We sacrifice time together, stability, and sometimes even a sense of normalcy.

Even with all of this, I couldn't be more thankful. Seeing my dad's dedication and bravery inspires me every day. It reminds me to be grateful, to appreciate the time I have with the people I love, and to never take anything for granted. The military community as a whole has also shown me what it means to support one another. No matter where we go, there's always a sense of understanding and connection with others who share similar experiences.

They inspire me in ways that are hard to fully put into words, but I feel it every time I see the way they handle things. It's not just what they do, but how they do it, with confidence, patience, and a kind of strength that makes me want to be better. When things get difficult, they don't give up, and that pushes me to keep going too. They show me that it's okay to grow, to make mistakes, and to keep improving. Because of them, I've started to believe more in myself and what I'm capable of, and that's something I'll always carry with me.

Being a military child hasn't been easy, but it has given me a deeper appreciation for the heroes in my life. Their sacrifices, strength, and courage inspire me to be a better person. I am proud of my dad and everyone who serves, and I will always carry that pride with me wherever I go.

By: alaina granillo