

“Why I am proud of my Veteran!”

My Veteran is my dad. The reason my dad joined the Utah National Guard is because he wanted to help protect our country after the twin towers fell. My dad risked his life for people that he does not even know. He is willing to go to places to fix calamity like when there was a bad flood in Colorado that took out the road. He donates a lot of his time to the army. I think that is really cool of him to do that for other people. I am very proud of my dad. Whenever I see my dad in his army clothes I am so proud of him.

For my first three birthdays my dad was not there. The first party that he was here for was my fourth birthday. He was not able to come to my fifth birthday party or my seventh. I was not mad at him for missing my birthdays because I knew that he was doing something good for our country.

Before my dad was deployed to Iraq we went to Build-a-Bear Workshop and we made bears. We put a little recorder inside that when we pushed it, the bear would say “Dad loves you Rachel”. While he was gone we got secret packages with things to comfort us while he was gone. Once I got a blanket with pictures of me with my dad. My mom made use little booklets with pictures of our dad. Sometimes I looked out the window and pushed the button on the bear and wished that my dad would come home.

Before my dad came home, some of my neighbors helped us put a “welcome home” sign up on the garage. Then we put up

yellow bows all over our yard. My mom put us to bed and then woke us up to go get our dad from the airport. His flight came in at midnight. I was very happy to see him. I love my dad.

It was hard to get to know him again after Iraq. When I wanted my mom to get me water, she would sometimes say ask dad. I would ask my mom if she could ask dad for me. After several months I warmed up to my dad.

I am proud of my dad and happy for him. I love my dad because when he is here and not doing things for the army, he takes time for me and my family. This makes it easier when he is gone. It might be hard for my dad but he takes time to show us that he loves us. He takes us on fun trips with him. One of my favorite things about my dad is that he takes us on camping trips and tells us funny stories from college and the army. I love my dad.