Why I am Proud of my Veteran
By Riley Eaton

I am proud of my dad because he was awarded a very important military decoration this year. He earned a Distinguished Flying Cross. This award is given to military men and women who “show heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight.” What is very interesting is that the battle he fought in to earn the medal actually happened 10 years ago. The Air Force has learned a lot about the battle since it happened and they upgraded his award from a Single Sortie Air Medal to a Distinguished Flying Cross.

One of the reasons he got this award was because of his bravery. When he was flying, one of his controls was broken and there was a fire in the plane, but he and the other crew members on the plane worked together to put it out. Also, while they were flying they lost two important radios. But because of their training, they were able to use a different radio that not many people know how to use. The plane he was flying was a B-1 Bomber.

They were flying the B-1 Bomber over a place called Vehicle Patrol Base Wanat Afghanistan, which is a dangerous place. There were bad guys fighting our American soldiers on the ground and our good guys needed help. It was really hard, but my Dad dropped bombs in just the right spot so they wouldn’t hurt the good guys while taking out the bad guys. I am most proud that my Dad decided to stay and help the soldiers even though the plane was having so many problems and was running out of gas. Before my Dad showed up, 9 American soldiers died. After my Dad showed up, no more soldiers died in the battle.

I am also proud of my Dad because I love spending time with him and he is someone people look up to. It is fun when we go out somewhere and he is wearing his uniform and he talks about his career with other people. When he comes to my school to talk to my class on Veterans Day and Armed Forces Day, everybody says “WOW,” I want to fly a plane one day or be in the military too. That’s why my Dad makes me proud!