Why I am Proud of my Veteran
By Shaneen Takmili

I am proud of my veteran for many reasons, however there is one reason in specific as to why I am proud of my veteran. That reason is sacrifice. My father has sacrificed so much throughout his life. This sacrifice has been seen in every aspect of his life.

My dad has been a part of the military long before I was born. From a very early age, I can remember him leaving for periods of time, in a camouflage uniform but never really understanding where he would go. All I knew was that my father was going away, but he’d eventually be back home. As I grew, I came to understand that he was going to work in order to provide for my family and also, to fight for and protect our nation’s freedoms. Now as to what he was doing, I would imagine it to be action packed gun fights. As time continued and I matured and learned about our government, military, and just how necessary both are, my appreciation for my veteran grew as well. I started to ask my father questions as to what he does at work, and what does his job with the military entailed. While I couldn’t know everything, I knew enough to understand that his job requires a lot of his time, and that he must love his country and family so much, that he is willing to sacrifice his own time in order to protect what he loves. It wasn’t until later in my life that I fully understood why he would decide to make so many sacrifices.

My veteran wasn’t born in the United States. He moved here at a very young age, with very little to his name. America, being the country it is, gave him an opportunity to make something of himself. My dad took full advantage of any and every opportunity that came his way. As he was growing up in the states he had to work very hard. He did everything he could to make things work for him. From working graveyard shifts while attending school, to learning an entire knew language and to adapt to a completely foreign culture. My father has expressed to me multiple times how grateful he was for the opportunities and the freedoms he received when he came to the states. He also describes how he always had a passion and felt the need to repay the country that gave him so much. He decided to return the favor by joining the military, understanding the risks involved as well as the sacrifices required in doing so. I love my veteran very much, and proud doesn’t come close to describing how I feel about him and what he’s done for my family and I.

I have a very deep appreciation for the members of the armed forces who risk their lives to protect our nation’s freedoms. I particularly love and am proud of my Veteran, who sacrifices so much in order to protect the country he cares so much about.