

Veterans Day Essay Contest 2022 Award Winners

Middle School Noa Pack 8th Grade Draper Middle School



BIO

I was born on August 21, 2009, in American Fork, Utah. I have lived in Eagle Mountain and Alpine, but now I live in Draper. My dad is currently deployed as a member of the Utah Army National Guard, and my mom teaches at the University of Utah. I have one younger sister, Demri, as well as an adorable one-eared cat named Zorro.

My favorite school subjects in 8th grade are English and History. I have participated in Utah's Chinese immersion program for eight years and I am currently learning Spanish as well. I also like playing softball, as a pitcher and I like competitive board games. In the future, I hope to go to Harvard and become a lawyer.

ESSAY

Why I Am Proud of My Veteran

Imagine watching one of your parents leave, and you do not understand what is happening or how long it will be until you are all together again. This is how I often felt when I was younger whenever my dad left for work or went on deployments. He joined the military when he was seventeen, the summer before his senior year of high school.

Since then, he has diligently worked in the Utah National Guard for twenty-five years. He has worked long hours, missed many family events, and has even known the hardship of soldiers who have fallen, both on and off the battlefield. Meet my dad, my veteran, my hero: First Sergeant Fredrick Pack.

For me, being a veteran means valuing safety, not just for us but for our country. That is why my dad goes to work every day, and I am proud of his sacrifice to help keep America protected. He clearly respects his uniform and always tries to be a positive role model while he is wearing it. When he is at home, he also serves others and responds to calls, even if he is off duty. For example, a few years ago, there was a house fire across the street. Since my dad had firefighter training from work, he ran over to help and make sure everyone was safe. In this moment he wasn't thinking about himself, only the people in that fire who needed help.

Luckily, he has great work friends, who are like family away from home. Together, they share hardships and support each other physically and emotionally.

My father's sacrifice shows every day. He has been deployed several times to dangerous places like Afghanistan and Iraq. Even now, he is in California protecting the border. He has had to leave his family, with only the hope that he could see them soon. My dad has missed first steps, birthdays, anniversaries, school projects, and boy drama. However, he is still my biggest hero and role model in everything he does.

He has gone to great lengths to keep this country safe, and sacrifices are unavoidable. Our family has been separated, and he knew that this would be hard for others, but he still made the sacrifice. That is courage. Being courageous enough to leave everything you care about, to protect the things you care about. As you can see, I care so much about my dad, who has taken it upon himself to protect the beautiful land we live in, and still carries on, regardless of the consequences. Please, be as proud as I am of First Sergeant Frederick John Pack Jr., my veteran dad, and my hero. I am grateful to have him in my life, helping keep the United States of America and our world safe.