

## 2024 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VETERANS DAY ESSAY WINNER



**Christopher Phillips**  
**Grade 5**  
**Haven Bay Elementary School**

### BIO

Christopher Phillips is 1 of 5 siblings. He is 10 years old and in the 5th grade. He enjoys Dirt Bike riding, Football, Archery and Hiking. He aspires to be an engineer to dive into his love for Science, Math and Coding.

### ESSAY

The veteran in my family is my dad. He enlisted into the army right after graduating high school and went to boot camp at Fort Hood in Texas. He was Army MOS 27ECHO. Land combat electronic missile system repairer. He was born in San Diego, California and that's where we all lived until we moved to Utah for a better life environment. My dad was honorably discharged because he got hurt. My dad has had more than twenty to thirty surgeries. He didn't want to leave the army but he will always be a soldier. My dad even tried to reenlist after 9/11 because he loves his country but couldn't because of his injuries. I think my dad is a protector like a super hero like Superman or Captain America. He helps everyone when they need it, even strangers. He wants to go to the victims of hurricane helene and help the citizens. We have a room

dedicated to the American flag, other family members in the military and his bravery. Even though my mom also uses it as her craft room.

Me and my brothers and sisters all have a bag of sand from the middle east that he gave us and he other cool things from other places he has been. He wears red every Friday for R.E.D which stands for “ remember everyone deployed” i really respect that because it's him showing respect to the American soldiers.

He teaches us how to be a proud American and a good citizen. When we do the pledge of allegiance at school I always think of him. When we go places like the rodeo or monster trucks and they ask military to stand up to be honored, it's really cool to see him stand and have everyone clap. When I grow up I want to be a lot of things, and a soldier is one of them. He is an engineer now and still works on things for the military. He said when he retires from that he wants to start a veteran ranch in the country with my mom and us, to help veterans that are struggling. We will use horses, fishing and other outdoor things to help them find their peace. My dad is my hero. My dad is our whole family's hero.

He is a really cool and nice guy. He teaches football, rides a harley, he's a better cook then my mom. He helps me on my bmx and dirt bike. We go camping and he shows me how to build up the campsite. He shows me survival skills and I think that's everything he learned in the army. I think that I am a kind, smart and helpful person and I know i get that from my dad. Manners, Respect and being a gentleman is something I learn from him.

I am proud of my veteran because he is very brave and helpful and my dad!