

2024 JR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL VETERANS DAY ESSAY WINNER



Siena Rosdahl
Grade 7
Wasatch Junior High School

BIO

Siena Rosdahl was born at Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, Italy while her dad was stationed there with 173rd Airborne division of US Army. She is currently in 7th grade at Wasatch Junior High. She is a competitive dancer with her company at Performing Dance Center. Along with dancing, she loves baking, reading, and listening to Taylor Swift.

ESSAY

My dad is a veteran of the War on Terror in Afgahnistan. I am so proud of the man that he is for many reasons. He had humble beginnings, growing up in a trailer park in Cedar City, UT. Eventually he and his family moved to California, and because my dad was the second of nine kids, money was pretty tight.

On September 11, 2001, my dad was in high school when his mom woke him up, telling him that something had happened in New York. Nineteen terrorists hijacked 4 planes and crashed them into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. As a result, almost 3,000 people were killed. This started the Global War On Terror. My dad was deeply effected by these tragic events and was inspired to someday join the army in hopes that such an event wouldn't happen to his family and his future kids.

From a young age he knew he was a fast runner and decided to use this skill to his

advantage. He constantly trained to get faster and he became a state champion long distance runner in high school. Because he was so fast he was recruited to run for both Duke and Westpoint. He knew his family wasn't going to be able to afford to pay for an Ivy League tuition so he decided to join the army and study and train at West Point.

On July 3, 2012, my father, then 1st Lieutenant, Dallin Lloyd Rosdahl left his wife and me, his new baby daughter, only 4 months old at the time, to serve his country for 9 months in Afghanistan. It was so difficult for my dad to be away from us and miss out on the events of being a father for the first time.

On September 1, 2012 after being there for 3 months, my dad's base, was bombed. The bomb was transported to the base by truck, where my father and so many other people were asleep, not knowing that they were going to be woken up by explosions. Luckily, no American Soldiers were killed. Soon, after nine months he was able to come home.

My dad's army service helped him get a scholarship to get into Harvard University for business school. His path lead him to become a high ranking worker in finance and he has been able to support his family. His service and sacrifices have helped me to have a better life, as well as everyone in America, as he has helped protect the country. It is inspiring that my dad and so many other people have given up their time to serve and protect America. They were willing to leave their families and friends, not sure if they were ever going to see them again, to serve their country and to protect their children and their posterity. My dad is one of these brave people and this is why I'm proud of my veteran dad.