

2025 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VETERANS DAY ESSAY WINNER



Sam
Grade 6
Stewart Elementary School

BIO

Sam is a sixth grade student who enjoys running, reading and magic tricks. When not at school, he likes to spend time with family and friends. Sam's favorite subjects are math, PE, and library and he hopes to be a teacher someday.

ESSAY

Have you ever wondered how our country stays safe? It is because men and women called veterans make sacrifices to serve in the military. I have to define this because many kids my age don't know much about the military, but I know sacrifice up close. I am the only one in my school that I know of, that is part of an active duty military family. I am proud of my veteran who is my dad. My dad is deployed for my whole 6th grade year. My pride for my veteran is defined by 3 words: service, sacrifice, and courage.

Service. Service requires training and following through with the job. Whether it's a pilot flying a helicopter or a doctor keeping service members healthy, or tending to wounds, they all serve in

some heroic way. Even when they put on a uniform, it's a form of service. It shows on the outside how they are committed on the inside.

Sacrifice. Every single job in the military comes with sacrifices. My dad devotes his life to help protect our country, because of this, it means he has to spend a lot of time away from his family. Sacrifice is the hardest part for me because I am part of it too. Another way, veterans sacrifice is that they take a risk of being near danger, and willing to die if needed.

Courage. We were at the military base when retreat protocol began. I noticed, as I stopped and put my hand on my heart, everybody around me stood still. Having courage can just be having to stay still and stand your ground. My dad has courage while deployed. His base stands ground far away from home and discourages those who would hurt weaker groups from attacking. I think veterans can also have courage by embracing their new home each time they move, with acceptance. Adaptability is a form of courage. My dad has courage to move eleven times in the military and to adapt to every new home, along with embracing a new community.

I am proud of my dad because of his willingness to serve, the sacrifices he makes, and his courage.