

**ESSAY PAGE**

## My Number One American Hero(es)

After considering the title of this essay for several days, I decided to make my number one American hero plural; military spouses. Random? Not really. Whilst there is much praise given to the American soldier – much deserved praise, don't get me wrong – little is said about the wonderful people who support them through everything.

Living a military childhood, I've had the opportunity to get to know many military wives over the years – including my mother. They have all touched my life in so many ways – through their constant dedication to their families, their enthusiasm for organizations such as Girl Scouts, and the way they carry out everything they do without complaint. If my husband went away on a ship for 6 months every other year, I'm pretty sure I would have at least one mental breakdown!

But not these ladies. If anything, they seem to draw upon the military training their husbands received in order to control their emotions. They throw themselves into anything they can find – Scouts, baking, PTA, any form of committee ever drawn up – they can be found, working twice as hard as anyone even though they have a list of things to do that is three times as long as anyone else's. And they enjoy it. They laugh, they joke, they have a great time – because they know that they're all going through the same things.

Which is another thing that makes them so special. No matter how much they're hurting, no matter how hard their life is, they always make time to listen when someone else is upset. A military wife or not – if their friend is in trouble, they can put their own problems aside in order to be there for their friend. To me, that is a unique talent; when the pressure is on, it can be very hard to forget about everything for a while just to focus on someone else.

Everywhere I've lived in my life – the States, Japan, England – it has been a great source of comfort to me to know that there will always be women like that to look after me (Not that I'm belittling the men who have to do the same thing; I know they work just as hard, it's just that I have been exposed to more wives than I have husbands during my life). Women who persevere, who have confidence, and who laugh their way through the hard times. Women who are brave, and strong; who live for now and are always there when their husband needs them – wherever in the world they may be.

A woman like that – that's who I want to be.