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What would I sacrifice for the greater good of my country?

Most true patriots would make the "ultimate sacrifice" in the time of our country's need; they would lay down their lives in its defense, through military service. I am no different, but the reality of my life makes the foremost a bit more difficult. I was born with a rare form of cancer which makes me ineligible for military service and unless we find ourselves in a civil war, taking a bullet seems a bit unlikely. However, my dedication to my country is no different than any other patriot and I would gladly give up anything and everything to maintain this republic "of the people, by the people, for the people" (Gettysburg Address, 1863). Therefore, my sacrifice will come in my dedication to serve Veterans who have served the United States in times of war.

I grew up with a profound understanding of what soldiers sacrifice for their country. The birthdays that they miss, the holidays, and never once complaining of the hardship they suffer or atrocities they see in the line of duty. Children often start new schools every couple years; it is simply a way of life. But it is a family member's job to support the soldier as much as they can and I am no different, and at a young age I knew that my mother would never leave the military because of me. Whatever civilian goals she may have had were dashed when I got cancer. She stayed for one simple reason; what insurance company would ever cover a cancer patient?

Life ultimately changed for us when my mother was injured on active duty and was forced to retire. But my patriotism did not end with my mom's retirement. In my mind, all of us have a debt to repay for those individuals taking our place on the battlefield. I have repeatedly worked with organizations such as the 4-H and the Civil Air Patrol which gathered donations for care packages which were sent to soldiers in Combat areas. However, it's the least I can do in repayment for the liberties I continue to enjoy. I will do whatever it takes in the support of this country and its military forces. I plan to become a Psychologist and help veterans who suffer from mental problems caused by combat. My great-grandfather (Bataan Death March), my grandfather (Battle of Chu Lai) and my "step-father" (Battle of Fallujah) are all veterans suffering from some sort of mental issue brought on by combat, and therefore my path of study is clear.

Sacrifice is defined as the act of offering something in propitiation or homage, and though I would surely join the military if I could, it is my goal to care for those that have gone in my stead. I plan to do whatever I can to support this country and pay back those most dear to me with the success and accomplishments of my life