

It's not what America can do for me; It's what I can do for America

America: land of the free; home of the brave. As a citizen in this country, I am guaranteed an education, the right to vote, religious freedom, and countless other rights; rights that not all people in the world are granted. I can decide what career path I take, where I live, what college to attend or even if I want to attend college. Because of the United States government and its military, all of these rights are guaranteed.

In my opinion, the United States military is the pinnacle of everything American. Soldiers represent everything for which America stands: freedom, patriotism, strength, and unity. We are free, because of our brave. Soldiers and their families do so much for the U.S. and its people. Soldier's wives participate in organizations that donate money and services to those in need. Military posts help to support the economy of the areas they are located, offering jobs to civilians and bringing new consumers. Most importantly, soldiers endanger their own lives every day to protect the freedom of American citizens.

I am fortunate to be able to recognize the drastic impact that soldiers have on our country and in my own life. Through my experiences as a military brat, I have become the person I am today. The military structure taught me to be dependable, responsible, and independent. Because my family moved every three years, I learned to cope with and adapt to unfamiliar situations. Watching my father around his superiors taught me to respect authority and to obey orders. Growing up on military posts, I learned to be patriotic and to understand the importance of unity. Because I was able to live overseas, I was given the opportunity to travel to places all over the globe, giving me a better perspective of the world and the issues that people face on a daily basis. I saw the poverty in which many individuals are forced to live and began to truly appreciate the liberties American citizens are granted because of our soldiers.

If the military represents America and has done so much, for my life in particular, the question must be asked 'what can I do to give back to my country?' I think the only right answer to that question is to take advantage of every opportunity given to me as a U.S. citizen. I can pursue an education and work towards helping those in need. To help ensure our country avoids decay, I can aid in beautification projects and energy conservation efforts. As a citizen of the legal age to vote, I can make educated decisions when selecting the leaders of our country. I can also help to encourage technological advancements and education for our people. I can do my part to stimulate the economy by paying taxes and buying American made products. I've been able to recognize my fortune in being born American and will never take that for granted.