

**It is not what America can do for me; it is what I can do for America.**

The idea of serving America feels like a daunting task. However, further thought helped me realize that servitude does not have to be a nerve-racking task in order to make an impact. Simply being a member of a military family has opened up numerous opportunities to get involved in my community. Serving my country can be as simple as sending care packages and writing letters to the troops overseas, being environmentally proactive, and becoming a productive member of society. Contributions such as these are only the tip of the iceberg of servitude.

When my father went overseas for the War On Terror, I was able to get involved by preparing care packages and writing letters to him and other friends of the family serving at that time. I also remember participating in functions where we collected donations in order to prepare the care packages. I helped make breakfast burritos to sell on base. The money collected helped purchase the items for our care packages. There were lists of requested items from the troops and we asked people in our community to contribute. By participating in this way, we boosted the morale of our troops, and they were very grateful for the consideration from everyone back home.

Aside from the military aspect of serving America, there are still plenty of opportunities for me to contribute. Serving America starts within the community. Cleaning up the neighborhood and the surrounding area is healthy for the environment and easy to do. When I was a Girl Scout, we organized trash pick up at our church and school each spring. I was taught early on that Girl Scouts always leave an area cleaner than we found it. By being environmentally proactive, one can serve the country through the preservation of the earth.

Becoming a productive member of society is important because I am expected to help boost the economic state of the country. Being financially stable is crucial because I cannot expect to live off of the government when I am perfectly capable of supporting myself. Providing for others while supporting myself is a large part of who I am. I have learned by the example of my biological family and my military family.

Serving my country is nearly habitual because I come from a military family. Alone, my acts of servitude are a gentle ripple, but with the devotion of my family and community we can make waves of service. After giving some thought to what I can do for my country, it is clear that there are endless possibilities. I am able to serve America in many different ways. The amount of servitude is inconsequential because when it comes to serving it is about quality—not quantity. In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."