

My Pledge to Our Veterans

It was a sunny morning, the birds sang on a maple tree; the light flickered through the skyline and landed on my shoulders. While we were driving through a country town, colorful banners on which soldiers smiled drew my attention. When the car approached, the large, bright letters, “Hometown Hero”, appeared. Dad slowed down the car, and his face turned serious.

My brother asked a question, “ I did a calculation. It seems they were young. Did they catch a serious disease?”

“No”, Dad answered, “they were the healthiest and bravest citizens of the United States.”

“Then why did those people pass away? I even saw a boy from West Point!”

“Because they were Hometown Heroes! They were Veterans!”

Hometown Heroes and Veterans are deeply imprinted on my brain. These two words seemed not related to the sunny morning. I was never as interested as I was now, so I did research on my computer, and it took me back to the American past.

In 1775, the U.S. army was established to protect the freedom of the first thirteen colonies. Since then, the U.S. army has defended many times. Around 41 million Veterans have served, about 1.3 million of whom sacrificed. Only 10% of the total population in the U.S. chose to serve their beloved motherland. Many Veterans went to prestigious schools, such as Harvard and Princeton.

The same as my hometown hero, Sergeant Andrew J. Creighton, who was a West Point candidate from Delaware. He was not very social. Instead, he was an outstanding student who excelled at music. When I look at his picture, I see another me. I wonder, maybe we have heard the same song, read the same Iron Man comic, or walked on the same trail. But Mr. Creighton became the true “Iron Man”. Mr. Creighton had no superpowers; but, his fearlessness and devotion made him a real superhero. Mr. Creighton’s life journey ended in the Uruzgan Province of Afghanistan on July 4th, 2010. Now every July 4th, Mr. Creighton is the brightest star lighting the American sky.

John Maxwell said, “Life is a matter of choices. ... Every choice you make makes you.” People can choose to live for themselves, live for their families, or live for their country. No one could have a sunny morning without someone’s sacrifices. “This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.” Thank you, Veterans. You are heroes.