

Emily Miller

Veterans, Hamburgers, and Lifejackets

Have you ever eaten a burger without a bun? Most people haven't because it isn't really a hamburger if you don't. The buns basically top off the burger and give the extra oomph that it needs. In the same way the military in our country gives us the oomph and protection that is imperative for the safety of our country. Our military isn't just about men and women wearing uniforms to look professional. It is about them fighting for our freedom. When you jump in a lake with a life jacket on, you trust that you won't sink, right? Well, in the same way when we are going through our daily routines we trust that our military is going to keep us safe. Actually we usually don't even think about it, we just take it for granted. Who are the buns of our burgers and the lifejackets in the lake? These are the veterans of the United States.

My grandpa served in the Navy during World War II. Sometimes when we think about veterans we just get this general picture of someone who is tough and know's how to shoot a gun, but I personally know a veteran and he is so much more than that. He's a human being who feels pain, gets scared, and makes mistakes just like the rest of us. So how do these people get the bravery and courage to lay their lives on the line for millions of people that they do not even know? The answer to this is it takes a very special person to be a veteran.

My grandpa is the wisest person that I know. He has taught me so much by what he says, but even more by his actions. Maybe this is why veterans are so unique, they don't just talk a big game, they take their thoughts and beliefs and put them into action. Without the veterans of our country we probably wouldn't have the same freedoms that we have today. Veterans have the

will to push themselves even when they do not feel like it. The worst part about it is that they are sometimes not appreciated as much as they should be.

Maybe the next time you are eating a hamburger you will think to yourself that the reason you get to sit there and eat a burger is because of hundreds of thousands of people who have given up their lives just so you can live yours freely. Perhaps when you are at the lake about to jump in and realize that the reason that you are not afraid to jump into a hundred foot lake is because of the trust you have in your lifejacket. In the same way we need to remember that there are people out there fighting that should and need to be honored and appreciated for the things that they give up just for you and me.