

My Military Hero

John Thomas Jr. is more than just my Military Hero. He is my dad, my basketball coach, my private tutor and so much more. After two deployments, it has drawn me, my dad, and my entire family closer together. I was much younger during his first deployment, so I didn't understand that much about what was going on. I was scared and confused all at the same time. Now, being thirteen years old, I fully understand all of the sacrifices he has made in order to make the United States a safer place to live in. He and his fellow comrades have stared death in the face. He lost 4 friends in 2004. Now in his 2nd deployment, he is dealing with all types of dangerous people and prisoners in Iraq. He has left his beloved family and friends at home in New Jersey two times in six years.

Being a military daughter, I have realized the value of family. There is nothing more important than family. There are no other people in the world that will be there for you through everything. Going without a dad for a year at a time is a very hard thing to adjust to. When he arrives home, it also takes time to adjust everything back to the way it was. That, to me, makes a family much stronger. Nothing could ever make a person appreciate their loved one more than being away from them for a long period of time.

Overall, all of my experiences have been life changing. It makes me such a proud and happy daughter to know that my dad is doing our country such a great and honorable service despite my feelings of sadness at times. It makes me even happier to see all the smiling faces of my family when my dad safely arrives home once and for all. I can't wait to see his smiling

face and open arms headed toward me; he makes me feel so special; always has and I know he always will. He is not just my Military hero, basketball coach, tutor, etc. he is my DAD!!!!!!!