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America's Veterans: Our Heroes of the Past, Present, and Future

Hero is a word that describes America's veterans – the veterans of yesterday, today, and forever.

Every generation in our nation's history has produced heroic veterans – Colonial militia that won our independence, Civil War soldiers that preserved our Union, and Twentieth Century soldiers that have repelled invasions and fought tyranny. Veterans, like my grandfather that served in the Navy for 30 years and my father that served in the Army, are all heroes.

Right now there are thousands of men and women that are sacrificing to serve in the military. My best friend's father has been deployed to Iraq for a long time. We talk about how much he misses his dad, but we also talk about how his dad, along with all the other soldiers and veterans, are our nation's heroes.

One of my personal heroes is Army Brigadier General and Astronaut Robert Stewart. I had the privilege of meeting him and he talked about the importance of serving my community and country. I realized that my generation will shape the future of America by our commitment and desire to serve in the Armed Forces. Perhaps that commitment and service is what will make my generation the heroes of tomorrow.