



Heroes

by Mason
Patrick McHugh
8th grade

What exactly makes a person a hero? My father, Colonel Brian McHugh, and my mother, Kimberly McHugh, are real-life heroes. They possess personal qualities that make them positive role models in our family and in the community. I see them inspiring not just my brothers and I to be better people: but in addition to our family, they have helped soldiers and student across the United States and overseas. As positive role models, they encourage everyone around them to strive for excellence.

My father has been an infantry officer for the past twenty-seven years. My mother is an English teacher and a private tutor. They have devoted their entire lives to serving others. Actor Denzel Washington once said, "I think a role model is a mentor—someone you see on a daily basis, and you learn from them." My parents mentor others every day. The reason I know my parents have positively affected the lives of people around them is because

I have witnessed soldiers stop my father in the Shopette to thank him and offer him kind words about his leadership. I have also seen parents cry when my mother has taught their children to read and write. I believe that people are positively influenced by my parents and because of this I believe my parents are authentic role models.

True role models uplift others. My parents raised my brothers and I to be good citizens and they also encourage soldiers and students to do their best every day. For example, my father works long hours each day and has been deployed many times. He also works out daily at five a.m. to stay fit. I have also seen him stay up until late at night to memorize speeches for Retirement and Hail and Farewell ceremonies. He always wants to ensure others are recognized appropriately and respectfully. My mother is also an Army volunteer. I have seen her stay up late after reaching all day to bake cookies for soldiers, prepare baby baskets, and host baby showers to welcome new babies to the unit. These acts of kindness, in my mind, show genuine leadership.

In conclusion, my parents inspire me because they inspire others. Galatians 5:13 states, "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh: rather serve one another humbly, in love." My parents are humble, loving heroes.