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Grant Sweet Memorial Essay

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There was a somber feeling in our country during the Vietnam War. There weren't many volunteers willing to join the military, with the dread of war looming over their heads. And yet, when the time came, these brave young soldiers fought and defended our country. One of these wonderful heroes was my Papa, Dave Shinn.

My Papa was initiated into the military in 1970. He and his family were concerned about him being drafted and shipped overseas to Vietnam; yet he went in to the army ready for whatever came upon him. He served our country graciously for two years. My Papa truly is an American hero.

Thousands of people lost their lives fighting in Vietnam. Young men were being ripped from their families by the draft. Anyone drafted into the war was worried about heading to Vietnam. My Papa made the decision to join on his own and not wait to be drafted. He was lucky not to be sent over to Vietnam, even though he had prepared for it. I feel horrible for the families of the veterans who perished in the war, picturing my life without my Papa would be horrible. The Veterans from Vietnam are true heroes to me.

During an interview, my Papa said " The military makes a better person out of you. It makes you look at the country a whole different way, a better way. I am proud to be an American!" I am honored to have such a brave Papa who fought for our country

and I know my Papa sacrificed a lot for our freedoms. The men and women who serve our country are truly heroes in our nation, for that, I am grateful!