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## All It Takes, Is All You Got

There is nothing greater than service to your country in defense of its freedom. You should always put in the maximum effort to achieve something you strongly believe in. Throughout my life, I have been surrounded by the core values of the United States Marine Corps. These traits are the fundamental elements that will help you make the best choices at the appropriate times. Being raised by a notable American has allowed me to demonstrate honor, courage, and commitment in my life.

I am the daughter and great-granddaughter of two notable Americans. My 97-year-old great-grandpa, Ryan Beighley, served in World War II as a Marine Sergeant during the Pacific island-hopping campaign. After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941, at the age of 17 he volunteered to fight in defense of our country. He served in Marine Reconnaissance and witnessed some of the fiercest fighting of WWII. And my father, Sergeant Major Daniel Beighley is currently in his 25th year of service in the Marine Corps. After Al Qaeda attacked the United States on September 11th, 2001, he re-enlisted and deployed in support of the global war on terrorism. He fought with Marine special operations command and saw some of the fiercest fighting in Afghanistan.

Although I will probably never experience what my great-grandfather and father experienced, I know from their relationship with each other that there is no bond greater than the brotherhood of being a Marine. When I asked my father which notable American inspired him to serve our country, he told me it was my great-grandfather. He gave numerous examples of why he felt like my great-grandfather exemplified honor, courage, and commitment. As he spoke, it sounded like he was describing himself. The character traits that stood out to me the most were responsibility, courage, and teamwork.

In the same way my father displays honor, courage, and commitment in his life, I strive to exemplify these traits in mine. My father's service to the United States Marine Corps inspires me to serve my community. Demonstrating responsibility, I volunteer weekly at Saving One Life Animal Rescue and Sanctuary in Escondido, CA. Being able to help a nonprofit organization rescue and adopt animals gives me a sense of purpose greater than myself. My father always encourages me to try new things, even if it's something that I am nervous about or typically would not try. One example was when

school tryouts for the volleyball team came up after the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. I watched videos, practiced diligently, gave everything I had, and was selected for the team. My father always tells me there is no "I" in team. Being a member of a team has taught me that communication, reliability, and initiative are critical to winning the game. Working with the Woodland Park Middle School Volleyball team and SoCal Volleyball Club has allowed me to develop into a team player. Through my father's example, I have learned that if you commit to doing something you have to see it through to the end. Through hard work and determination, I have been able to apply myself in school, take honors classes, and maintain high grades while playing sports and serving my community.

Both my great-grandfather and father continue to inspire me greatly through their actions, traits, and bond. Throughout their lives, they have embodied characteristics that I hope to mirror through my actions. By imitating their honor, courage, and commitment, I have learned to apply these traits in my own life. My father should be considered a notable American because his fortitude and strength in the face of adversity have inspired me to be like him as I grow older. If I continue to uphold his ideals and attributes as I continue to develop my leadership skills, I will hopefully grow into an American that future generations will admire and strive to emulate.

