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A legacy of loyalty and service

What is a legacy? Let alone a legacy of loyalty and service? Well according to the oxford dictionary a legacy is an amount of money or property left in a will. But that's not the legacy I'm here to talk about, the legacy I am here to talk about is left behind by those brave enough to serve our country and nation. Our brave veterans and those in active service have left behind many different legacies and stories of their own.

After a recent trip with my eighth grade class to Washington DC I got to see so many memorials honoring those brave men and women who gave their lives in the loyalty and service of our country. One of the memorials that stood out to me the most was the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. I was taken back not only by how long it was but also by the fact that it was so simple in concept, made up of only names of those who were lost or had given their lives to keep us free. I felt an immediate connection to this memorial.

My Grandfather, Michael Meyer, served on a destroyer ship during Vietnam. He was on the island of Vietnam twice and lost a very close childhood friend during a battle. His friend was a pilot and his plane was shot down over the island of Vietnam. I called my Grandpa from the memorial when I was in Washington. He told me his friend's name was John Michael Nash and I was able to find Mr. Nash's name on the wall. Grandpa told me I could etch his name if someone was around to help me, Mr. Nash's name was pretty high on the memorial. I wasn't able to etch Mr. Nash's name that day but I was able to bond with my Grandpa. Mr Nash's legacy wasn't forgotten that Saturday, the sacrifice he made to keep us free and safe is something that should never be forgotten.

In conclusion a Legacy isn't something that is just an item or money, legacies can be so much more than that. They can be stories of sacrifice and honor passed down generation by generation, or they can be turned into memorials or books that will one day inspire someone. That is a true legacy, a story that inspires others of any age, culture, or background. And this is how veterans can have a legacy of loyalty and service.

