

Captain Herbert C. Crosby Essay

United States Army Captain Herbert C. Crosby lived and died as a hero to our nation during a tumultuous time of uncertainty. Those in the Army live by a distinct set of values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. It is not just a guideline or a saying that loses meaning, it is a lifestyle. Everyday, soldiers, at home and abroad, wake up knowing that they may be called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Captain Herbert Crosby stood proud knowing this, like many great soldiers before him and those that have followed after. In a letter home to his parents he remarked:

"It kinda looks like people are ashamed because they died in this war that nobody wants. I don't see it like that though. We're fighting and they died for our country and the flag."

Even though the war he found himself in was not the most popular, this did not faze him. It is only a soldier who can look past fear and doubt to see what must be done for our country. Right now, I am among over one hundred fifty proud Army ROTC cadets at Embry-Riddle. Our Battalion can be characterized as strong and dynamic. From the top down, we instill a sense of patriotism and duty into all of our events and community interactions.

The leader of Eagle Battalion, LTC Schaefer, has shown us how the character of an officer can affect the morale of his people and the success of the mission. It is through the many lessons from himself and his accomplished staff that have molded many classes of cadets into great young officers. Some of these officers are currently serving in combat and some have even paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. I am proud to be completing my degree and commissioning from this reputable battalion.

I aspire to be the leader who is well-respected by his peers as well as his subordinates. I have always believed that if you want a change in the world, you must be the catalyst for that change. This is the reason I decided to go to Embry-Riddle and join the Army ROTC program. I sensed that this university would take me to heights I could have never imagined in high school. I further knew that serving in the US Army is the same honor as that of my father as well as my uncle, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Persian Gulf War. I am currently pursuing my Bachelor's Degree in Aerospace Engineering. This field of study is important to me because I feel that it will enable me to help shape the future. Since I can remember, I have always tried to think of ideas that would make everyday life more environmentally friendly and affordable to the common man.

My upcoming commission into the US Army represents the first real challenge that I must face. The appointment is very respectable, but that pedigree comes with an enormous responsibility. When the dust settles, it is my duty to bring all of my soldiers and equipment home safe. This is an appointment that I will never take lightly and one that I will hold in the highest regard.

From reading through one of his letters home from Vietnam, I can plainly see that Captain Crosby did not take his post lightly either. It took a brave man to engage an enemy that we didn't understand and rarely saw. This bravery was no more exemplified by his valiant sense of duty and unfortunate loss. I feel that if Captain Crosby were here standing amongst the members of the Eagle Battalion, he would be extremely proud. He would see that his tenacity lives on today with this all-volunteer officer corps of brave young men and women. As a nation, we owe him gratitude for his service and I whole-heartedly thank you for considering me to be honored by this award.