

Rhett Branan

Grade 5 - Sanford Creek Elementary School



My Grandpa - My Hero

My name is Rhett Branan and my hero is my grandpa, Bruce Hoiseth. My grandpa served 25 years in the military and retired with the rank of Master Sergeant from the U.S. Army. Grandpa was deployed to Iraq in 2006, at the age of 48, as part of a MITT team. When he was in Iraq grandpa was able to help many people by bringing them supplies to survive and protecting them from war. My grandpa is very proud to be a veteran and that he was able to serve his country.

I am a member of local Scout Troop Pack 500. My grandpa was an Eagle Scout in his hometown of Lexington, Massachusetts. He helps teach me very important things and goes on hikes with me and my troop. My grandpa has also visited local schools as a speaker and guest reader to help educate kids about what it is like being in the Army and the importance of Veterans Day and Memorial Day. We have participated in the "Wreaths Across America" project, where we went to cemeteries and put holiday wreaths on veterans graves and saluted them to honor their service.

My grandpa participated in the "Tough Ruck", a 26 mile ruck march, in military fatigues and combat boots, while wearing a 20 pound backpack. He rucked two years in a row at the age of 66 and 67. I watched the "Tough Ruck" and it was very amazing that they could walk so far with such heavy backpacks and be able to make it the whole 26 miles. We met up with grandpa along his journey and provided him water and support so he could continue his endeavor. Money raised goes to assist families of fallen and wounded military warriors. He raised over \$5,000!

My grandpa also helps our former and active military members in any way that he can. He knows a lot about the medical and educational benefits offered by the military. Grandpa works for a non-profit that advocates for people with disabilities. He places them in jobs on military bases, doing things like cooking, cleaning or other careers. He enjoys assisting people and will always lend a helping hand.

My grandpa has many interesting and cool stories about his time in the Army. We like to discuss airplanes, and go on outings together around town. He has taught me to be a good citizen and to be there for people in need, even when it is difficult. That is why my grandpa is my hero!