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### **Courage, Bravery, and Pride- My Personal Laws of Life**

Since I was a young boy, I have watched him lace up his boots, put on his hat, and salute me as walks out the door. For as far back as I can remember my father always wore his military fatigues with pride. Although I continue to watch him leave for long periods to serve his country, and even though I am frightened that he may get hurt or that I may never see him again, I know that his dedication to this country comes as natural to him as breathing. Many times, I have watched my father climb into the C130 plane that routinely takes him to different countries, and each time the plane takes off; I am saddened as it takes my father away from me. As I watch it fly higher and further away, my eyes swell with tears like an overflowing bathtub, my heart sinks, and my throat stiffens. Every time my father leaves I want to stop him and beg him to stay but I know that he is doing what he truly loves to do. Courage allows me to remain strong as I quietly ask God to bring him home quickly, unhurt, and alive. The life long commitment that my father has made to this country inspires me to live a life of courage, bravery, and pride-my personal laws of life.

The courage and bravery that I learned at a very young age helped me to save the life of my niece. When I was eight years old and my niece was one, she went outside and fell into the pool when she was believed to be sleeping. As I heard the water in the pool splashing around from my bedroom window, I looked out and saw her frantically thrashing around with her head quickly going under the water. I instantly ran out of my bedroom and down the stairs as I continuously yelled for help. Failing to hear any answers my calls my heart began pounding harder and harder like a jackhammer crushing cement. I continued to run through the house and out the back door until I reached the pool. Without hesitation, I dove into the pool, swam as quickly as I could to get to her, and grabbed her by her shirt. I held onto her as tightly as I could as I swam to the steps of the pool. As I carried her into the house I feared that she might be dead because her body hung lifelessly from my arms like a drenched towel hanging from a towel rack. With my niece's motionless body, I ran quickly throughout the house and through the front door where I spotted my sister and mom planting flowers. Before I could scream for help, I heard my niece start to cough, spit up water, and cry. I ran my niece to my mom and sister and told them what happened. Although I was very frightened and unsure if the liquid falling from my face were tears or water from the pool, I was able to confront my fear and overcome it with courage and bravery. The feeling of pride quickly followed when I realized my niece was going to be all right.

Courage and bravery are very important traits to have that help me to live my life and plan my future. My father's dedication and commitment to our country inspires me to serve my country too. My plan for the future is to follow in my fathers footsteps and join a branch of the military reserves as I attend college. I hope to help the less fortunate, fight for my country, and protect its citizens as my father does today. In a few months my father will be leaving for the Middle East, and as I watch his C130 take off once again, I'll think about the day I'll be able to lace up my boots, put on my hat, and salute my dad as we walk out the door together.