

Joseph Brese  
October 6, 2017  
Composition II

### “My Sacrifice”

When I was young, I always loved being a part of a big family. My brother, sister, and I grew up very close, and then there was always cousins our age. There was something going on all of the time. We were always in a creek somewhere, hunting arrowheads, swimming, fishing, and there was always some big adventure to go on.

My grandparents on my dad’s side had nine children. My aunts and uncles all had four or five children each, so there was a lot of us. Holidays were always a huge event. All of the family would come in, and it was usually an exciting time, especially for us kids. We always had tons of gifts on Christmas, and birthdays were no less spectacular. Nobody had much money, because they had so many kids, but everything always managed to work out wonderfully.

When I was sixteen, I had my first kid. I was far from ready, but there was no turning back. Then at seventeen, I had my second. I really wasn’t ready then either, but once again, there was no turning back. At eighteen, I joined the Army and completely left this part of the world behind. I have never loved anything like I loved those children, and joining the Army was the only way that I could take care of them. Ironically, it ended up costing me my children. A lot of things changed while I was in the Army, and when I finally got a chance to come home, I just couldn’t. There wasn’t enough of me left to be a part of my kid’s lives. When I look back, I really think that there wasn’t enough of me that really want to be a part of their lives. So I did what I thought was the noble thing and continued being a soldier and just sent them money. For

almost their entire lives, I didn't even know who they were. I went years at a time without seeing them or even talking to them on the phone.

A lot of years have passed since then, and things are completely different now. I now have eight kids, and we are all one big family. My oldest are now grown, and the youngest all live with me. It has been hard getting to where we are now, but we made it. Looking back, I would have to say that I sacrificed the relationship that I should have had with my kids to be in the military, but since then I have sacrificed everything for them all.