

Putting a wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier would mean a lot to me, not only because they could be your family, but as fallen members of our armed forces, they are members of my family, and I am proud we guard their tomb. In my mind it represents those still missing and unknown that we have forgotten about. Each service member receives a military funeral, except those who we have never found and those who were not able to be identified. Their remains are kept guard because we as a nation promise to keep a safe guard until the bodies are return to their loved ones. Since these remains can't be identified it's up to our nation to protect them from harm. I believe that it has an extra special meaning to those that have served in the arm forces.

Putting a wreath on the tomb would also remind me of my of my family members who served and or fought for mine and your freedom. One of those family members being one of the most important men in my life, my dad. My dad served in a United States Marine Corps for 7 years, and did a tour in the Iraq war. My dad will be traveling with me this year to D.C. and I think it would be a very special moment for him, to see his son being able to place the wreath on the tomb, that would be a moment that we would both treasure forever, and never forget.

Another great honor of putting the wreath on the tomb would bring back memories of my Great Grandpa Faulkner who fought in the Air Corps in WW2. He passed away 3 years ago but his memory still lives on. I remember listening to his stories about going to war because he wanted to fight for what he believed in, and wanted to see his grand kids, great grand kids, and their families have the freedom he had during his life. I know he would be looking down from heaven with a huge smile on his face seeing myself with my dad standing nearby putting the wreath on the tomb.

My dad and great grandpa Faulkner are not the only two members of my family that have served our country, a total of 7 of my close family members have been in the armed forces, not to mention the ones generations and generations down the line. These include my papaw Brad Gerretson who was in the Army and fought in the Persian Gulf War, my great grandpa Denton Noel who was in the Army who fought in WW1, my papaw David Vance who was in the Army but never went to war, and last but not least my papaw Dave Rhoten who was in the Army who fought in Vietnam War. I hope one day to be as brave as these men in my life and serve our country as well, and hope they will be as proud of me as I am of them for all they have done. Until that day comes I know that whether it is them watching me from above or seeing pictures and hearing that I got to put the wreath on the tomb, I know that would warm their hearts and make them proud that I am becoming the young man they would want me to become.

In conclusion it would be one of the greatest honors of my life to put the wreath of the tomb, please consider me to be able to do so, as it would be such a honor.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John", is located at the bottom left of the page.

Dear Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Committee,

Do you ever think about the people that risk their lives on the battlefield each and every day for us? The Merriam-Webster Dictionary has the definition of a soldier being: "A militant leader, follower, or worker, who is especially engaged in military service and is a skilled warrior." However, my definition of a soldier is different. To me, a soldier is anybody that risks their lives for their country and family. In addition, a synonym to a soldier is a wonderful, inspiring hero or heroine. In being part of this ceremony, not only would it mean a lot to my family, my friends, and me, but it would also give me future skills of leadership, caring for others who have lost loved ones, and taking part of an important ceremony. If I am chosen to be part of this moving tradition, I would be honored to make my country proud by taking part in placing the wreath.

By taking part in this ceremony, one special value I would learn is leadership. This is a way for me to gain better knowledge in leadership that I can't learn anywhere else. I would be able to receive a small portion of leadership skills from what the soldiers of our country represent while serving our country. I am identified as a gifted and talented leader; however, this will expand my leadership capabilities for the future.

In addition to learning new leadership skills, I will also be able to be put into the families' shoes who have lost loved ones in the past. My great-grandfather served in the military when he was alive, and I lost both him and my great-grandmother around eight years ago. These deaths had a big impact and I was grateful that I was able to see him before he passed away. I feel sorry for other family members who have had loved ones not return from war.

Lastly, placing the wreath would help me learn how to take part in an important ceremony. My brother, who is now a freshman, went to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and watched four of his classmates place the wreath on the tomb. By hearing his stories, this sounds like a very emotional and touching experience, and I would love to pay my respect to the Unknown Soldier.

To sum this up, I would love to have the memory of placing the wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This is something I would love to tell both my children and my grandchildren one day when I am older. Even if not selected, it would still be an honor to watch this touching ceremony take place while visiting Washington D.C. in April of 2015.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers Essay: Why I Want to Hang the Wreath

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery stands atop a hill overlooking Washington, DC. On March 4, 1921, Congress approved the burial of an unidentified American Soldier from World War I in the plaza of the New Memorial Amphitheater. Although the soldiers are unknown, they brought great honor to our country by sacrificing for our freedom. Being able to hang the wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier would be a great honor because I would highly appreciate the opportunity to pay respect to the fallen heroes who were not given the chance to receive the recognition they so deserved.

Since I was 2 years old, I have loved the idea of presidents, government, American liberty, and freedom. Hanging the wreath would be a once in a lifetime experience and although only a few are picked to hang the wreath, I hope to be one of them. To be one of the people selected to recognize these honorable soldiers would be an amazing opportunity. I would not only remember this experience of hanging the wreath but also of paying sincere respect to the soldiers with unidentified names.

I think I should hang the wreath because I am always on a quest for knowledge. I am an intelligent person who is greatly inspired by these amazing unnamed men and women and will take great pride in being a part of this wonderful tradition. Hanging the wreath would mean that I was able to take part in giving respect, love, and recognition to these extraordinary heroes. I would also consider it an honor to shake the hand of the soldiers who spend their days and nights standing guard and protecting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers.

For me, hanging the wreath would be more than just taking part in a ceremony; it would mean that I was part of a remarkable moment that I will hold dear for the rest of my life.

What does placing a wreath on the unknown soldiers tomb mean to me? That's a good question. I don't think that is possible to put into words.

First of all, as a 10 year old, I am sure I don't fully understand what the war involves or what the men and women have done to keep me free. But I do know that it takes someone that is very brave and special to be able to put on a uniform and fight for our country and our freedom. Just knowing that many people have been taken from their families while serving, makes me extremely sad.

Secondly, I have family members that have served for the military. It's an honor to be able to know about them and what they did. My older brother recently decided to join the Navy. I also have a distant cousin that visits the unknown soldiers tomb.

Finally, I am very thankful and honored to live in a place like the USA. It's great to be around men and women who have fought for our freedom. My family loves to

try to support all the soldiers and veterans. By sending Christmas cards, to simply giving them a handshake and a thank you, goes a long way to a person.

So back to the question: What does it mean to me to place the wreath on the unknown soldiers tomb? It would mean the world. It would be another way for me to be able to give thanks to all the men and women that fought for our country. To say thanks to you, the veteran reading this today.