

During 9/11, my grandfather was at his lunch break in the Pentagon when the plane hit. He and others immediately grabbed some firemen gear and started to pull people out of the rubble, saving many people. He earned the Navy and Marine Corps medal for his life saving acts. When asked about what happened to the medal, he shrugs and says it's in a box somewhere. Because it wasn't important to him, he was just glad that he was able to save those people. He calls it the highlight of his career, his true patriotic moment.

Being a patriot isn't just you being American or military. It's the fact that you're proud to be an American, and proud to serve and protect the ones that you love, like my grandfather. You hang an American flag on your front porch with pride. You stand up for the Pledge of Allegiance, even when nobody else is and when others make fun of you for it. On the 4th of July you light the fireworks and laugh and celebrate. And while you do, think about all the things that have happened in this country, and feel proud to be called an American.