The tomb of the unknown soldiers represents great sacrifice of the men and women of our nation who weren't lucky enough to return from the conflict in which they were engaged. Fortunately for me, I have a deep family military history that dates back to the civil war, so the understanding and great respect for the tomb is embedded in my heart and soul.

Starting in the civil war era, I have a great, great, great, grandfather that was wounded in action in Murfreesboro Tennessee while clearing the enemy from the city. I also have a living great grandfather that stormed Anzio Beach during WWII, and was wounded and became a prisoner of war in a German prison camp. Luckily after a year and six days, his camp was liberated and he returned home and awarded the Purple Heart. My grandfather was drafted and served in the Vietnam War at the age of 19 as a reconnaissance sergeant and returned home safely after 1 year of service. My uncle and father both have served in the Air Force as aircraft mechanics, and both have been deployed overseas to locations such as Korea and Iraq. Currently my cousin is in Air Force boot camp, keeping on with the generations of my family ready, and willing to serve.

It goes without saying that I understand the sacrifice and undying love for our nation that our men and women of the military defend on a daily basis. It would not only be an honor to me, but also my generations of military family history, past and present, to be afforded the chance to lay the wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier.