

Chelsea Perkins  
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Because of the war our country is in today, I have become increasingly aware of the great military services that our country provides. Watching the news and knowing that strangers are sacrificing their lives for me makes me even more proud to be an American. Also, since my brother has become a Marine, I have learned to appreciate my freedoms more. One great man, who I've always looked up to, has had an even greater impact on my life. My uncle, Keith Olson, is a Vietnam veteran who served in the Marine Corps and made many sacrifices for Americans today.

Keith was in the United States Marine Corps, and he fought in the Vietnam War from the summer of 1968 to the summer of 1969. He was severely wounded three times and received three Purple Hearts. Even though his life was never the same after those injuries, he doesn't regret what he did at all. He claims that it was completely worth it to go through all of the pain and suffering for his country. Today, he is still proud of what he contributed in the Marine Corps and shows it by being involved in many veterans' organizations.

He is a life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans. He is also a yearly member of the American Legion. He believes that these organizations are apart of a great cause, and by being involved, he is showing his support to our freedom, the flag, and to future generations. He is proud to be a veteran and would serve our country again in a heartbeat.

Another reason why he is involved in these organizations is that they help him stay in contact with other veterans who went through the same situations that he went

through. He has a brotherhood with other Marines, and these organizations are helping him keep that brotherhood alive. There is a bond that he shares with other veterans that will keep them brothers until death.

Talking to him has helped me see the reality of life. He has reinforced the fact that freedom isn't free, and that we, as Americans, need to stand up for our beliefs. Without veterans like Keith, we would not live in the same country as we do today.