

Remo C. Bertugli Essay

Contestant #3 – Micaela Ricco

Volunteering in many places can affect you in so many ways, and I have learned that through the years. I volunteer at numerous places such as the food bank, my church, and causes that go to active duty members or veterans. One service project that I have done that affected me the most was "Stockings for Soldiers". "Stockings for Soldiers" is when you put boxes out and collect Christmas Stockings from local areas. The stockings can include any item that a soldiers or veterans would enjoy and or need while away from their loved ones. When I saw the organization on social media, I immediately wanted to get involved. Both of my grandfathers were in the army and 3 of my great-grandfathers, which I was fortunate to know, fought in wars for our country. I reached out to the guy that runs the organization. He told me that he would like for me to collect from places that would get a lot of stockings. I collected from my local school, family businesses and my dance studios. The collection went great. We delivered all of the stockings to the guy that was in charge. It was an awesome feeling to know that I collected 53 stockings and that they would be delivered to deserving men and women around the holidays. When I thought I had done everything I could for the service project, there was more.

My pap was in the armed forces, so he is really involved in our local legion. It was a regular night when I received a call from him. He told me that the stockings I had collected were at the legion. He was so proud that I got involved. All of the men that were veterans at the legion received a Christmas stocking. Their smiles were priceless and the gratitude they shared for others were amazing. The veterans and soldiers are something I am very passionate about because they risk their lives for our country. If I can help them in any way possible, I will.