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### **Honor and Country**

*"In Flanders Fields, the poppies blow*

*Between the crosses, row on row..."*

-John McCrae (Canadian Lieutenant-Colonel)

Last spring break, my family and I visited Belgium. One place we went to was Flanders Field. This field was where French, Belgium and British Expeditionary Forces fought against the Germans for freedom during WWI. Throughout our stay, we visited many memorials covered with graves and many names of the ones who died. It was very humbling for me to see how many people were willing to sacrifice themselves for their country. At the end of the day, we watched The Last Post Ceremony. This was extremely touching for me to see that the soldiers were honored every day for what they did for their country, for the world.

Before I saw the ceremony I always wondered why would someone fight in a war when they could be killed or permanently injured. I always thought to myself that I would never want to fight in a war because I wouldn't want to die. After the ceremony I had a new understanding, that it was not about if you live or die but it was about honor. It was about the new respect you gain, the new lens people see you through. Even if you don't survive people are still thankful. When you die fighting in a war it is an honor to die for your country. It is an honor to fight for your country, and you are honored for willing to fight. These people who save millions of lives are not only saving the people of their country by they are also saving the future of mankind and the new generations to come. When you think of this then you think you might not be living a life like this if it was not for the soldiers who were willing to die for your freedom.

I can now understand what honor means and how saving one person's life is saving more than you might think. I am honored to say thank you.

*We are the Dead. Short days ago*

*We lived, felt the dawn, saw sunset glow,*

*Loved, and were loved, and now we lie*

*In Flanders Fields.*

-John McCrae (Canadian Lieutenant-Colonel)