

Emily Tatum
Carmel High School Senior

“It wasn’t courage.” These words were spoken to me by veteran Ray Casciari. Ray led a 10 person crew on a B24 Bomber Plane as a pilot during World War II in the Pacific. That is the definition of bravery in my mind. Throughout the history of our great nation, we have placed our trust in our veterans. Too often, as Americans, we can lose sight and take for granted the American dream. These veterans never forget. Two summers ago, I saw Omaha Beach. As the harsh waves crashed against the shore, my mind was unable to picture our troops, our American citizens struggling to move forward. In recent events, our nation has had to combat the Ebola crisis. The workers at the Center for Disease Control, Emory Hospital, and Texas Presbyterian Hospital have put their lives on the line in order to save their fellow Americans. We have Americans working for the common good, propelling humanitarian aid in Liberia as well as in our country. That is bravery. This year ISIS grew stronger, yet our American troops have remained strong. Other countries may falter, but the United States remains consistently strong. Today our servicemen and women combat the terror of ISIS. We are not willing to compromise the security and the integrity of the American people. Every American should attempt to be brave in the name of the United States, but unfortunately that is rarely the case. That’s why we turn to our veterans. That’s why we take a day to honor the indescribable feats and accomplishments of these men and women. My friend Ray turned 91 this year, but his eyes still portray his vivacity and honor to be an American. During the Normandy invasion on D-Day, America was brave. During the time of this Ebola crisis, America is brave. Throughout this year, facing ISIS, America continues to be brave. Finally, my friend, Ray, will forever be brave. America is the home of the brave.