Lasik For a Local Hero Contest Essay

I have never been too fond about writing about myself, but here goes nothing…

My name is Jeffrey Holliday. I just turned 29 years old on the 7th of November. I have been wearing glasses since I was a teenager. I am not exactly sure of when I had realized that I needed them, but it wasn’t too long before my 16th birthday that I finally had gotten a pair.

I come from a military family and am prior military myself. I was born and raised on an island called Guam. Not too many people can say that they know of it, most just assume since I was not born here in the United States, that I must have a green card. No offense to anyone. Being from a military family I was taught the ways of the lifestyle from an early age. I was in JROTC off and on throughout high school. Attending 5 different high schools in 4 different countries was a challenge. New friends, new life. I adjusted though and carried on as normal. I can say that I never cared for the look of glasses, so I wore them when I was away from home. Mom would’ve dug into me if she found that out. Eventually though, glasses became “in style” so I began wearing them. Upon graduating high school, I was then shipped off to boot camp.

I was enlisted in the Navy June of 2005, straight out of high school. Even though I had grown up in the life of the military, boot camp seemed like a whole other world. This time it was me that would no longer be considered a “civilian”. I was now a proud member of our armed forces. I knew I wanted to serve since I could understand the world. Growing up in it sort of sways you in that direction as well. I wanted to do my part for my country. I wanted to be something. I was stationed in Japan and California. I have seen the world. I have been to places most people will not. I have stayed up at night while people slept. I continue to do so.

Upon getting out of the Navy after almost 6 years, I was destined to forge my own path. I have only known the military my entire life, so expectedly, I wanted to try something different. I applied for a HVAC position with Peaden and was graciously offered the job. I have worked long hours in the heat and cold. This company has and still is a great organization to work for. As this is essay is about my vision, I guess I could add something into it. It was at Peaden that I ordered my first pair of Rx Sunglasses. I had always wanted a nice pair of sunglasses but knew that there would be no point in wearing them if I could not see. I just happened to come upon a website that was advertising the Rx sunglasses, I looked into them, and got a pair. I wear them all day, every day. I use to only wear them when I would drive as my vision is not horrifying, but since I have gotten them, I have them on majority of the time.

So, while working for Peaden I came to a point in my life where I needed to decide on a long-lasting career path. I had always been interested in public safety. I admire the courage of all first responders. It is not an easy job. Long days and sleepless nights. Why would anyone want to do it? We are all crazy. The pride you get from simply helping an elderly person get up, or putting out a house fire, is worth the long days and sleepless nights. As you can guess, I became a fire fighter. I have only been with the department for a short amount of time, but I can tell you that I wouldn’t change my decision to walk into GCSC and apply for the class for anything. I work a 24-hour shift, get off and go to work at Peaden for the 48 hours I have off at the department. It makes for a long week. When I do finally kick my boots off and can sit down and relax, I enjoy the quality family time with my wife and child. We have all been through a lot on this journey. We have all endured nights away from one another. This job as a first responder is not for the kind hearted. It is tough and it does ask a lot from you. With all that said, we wouldn’t change it for the world. First responders like myself are out there every day for the people, and we will never let someone think for one second that we didn’t do the best we could. My name is Jeffrey Holliday and I am a military veteran and a proud member of the Panama City Fire Department.

Jeffrey Holliday