Consider something in your life you think goes unnoticed and write about why it's important to you. 650 words

I look young. I appear innocent-looking. I am soft spoken. I am not macho. I am not rough and tough. I am not conservative(word choice?). I am an international student from South Korea studying computer science in the United States. I like to talk about my military experiences with my American friends because they show much interest, are impressed and surprised as they never expect someone like me was once an active soldier. The fact that I served two years in the military of South Korea goes unnoticed by numerous people. However, experiences I had in the South Korean army are very significant to me as the successful completion of military duty has shaped me into a better person and student.

First of all, the military experience made me a more independent person. Tough training, strict discipline and etiquettelesson improved my independence and mental endurance. This independent mind has helped me in great ways after I came back to study in the United States. I could adapt to the new environment more effectively as I shopped cost-effectively, managed household accounts, and searched for good housing by myself. Going through tough challenges and hardships in the army, I am very confident that I can easily adapt to any new environment and accommodate myself to sudden circumstances. The military experiences taught me how to “survive the war” in the real society. That is a significant skill and asset I can obtain only from the military.

Moreover, the military “woke me up”. Before joining the army, my mind roamed about indeterminate future plans and I wandered down an unclearpath as I transferred from pharmacy school to my current university. I was completely lost in choosing a major, finding academic interest and setting up my actual future plan. During my long time in the military service, I thought about upcoming challenges in the society and realized I should live more “seriously” and passionately as a returning university student. Because I had so much time to think and consider carefully in the military, I was able to find a perfect-fit major which is computer science since I love computers and programming. Consequently, the military experience encouraged me to ardently seek and learn my academic interest, and revived my dedication and devotion to the university education.

Some argue that serving in the military is difficult, a waste of time and unprofitable. Their opinions may be true; however, it is very different in my case. Two years of military service has trulyshaped who I am right now. I cannot ask anything more than that because the characteristics and skills built by the military experience will make me successful and competent prospective student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.