

Impact Statement

Bryson Nolan, Grade 7.

Military Medic, 2020.

Mixed media, 24 x 18 Inches.

LaVilla School of the Arts, Jacksonville, FL

Unsung Hero: Lt. Colonel Tran Ngoc Hue

An unsung hero is an individual whose actions make a profound and positive impact on history but is largely unrecognized by contemporary generations. So how do you decide to choose a hero that inspires you in a positive way? It is not an easy decision. We were given names with a little information about each candidate. When I saw the picture of a military man, I immediately wanted to read about him. I have many family members who have been in the military so that definitely drew me to him. After reading about him I was inspired by his heroism.

I chose Lt. Colonel Tran Ngoc Hue “Harry” as my unsung hero that I would bring awareness to through my art project. Learning about all that he did was very interesting and educational. He served in the military as a medic of the 1st infantry Division Army of the Republic of Vietnam. He helped save the lives of many US soldiers by taking care of them after their airfield at Hue City was overrun. He was also a very brave leader. He led his men into some dangerous battles and was rewarded later on in life with a Silver Star as well as two Bronze Stars.

As I was thinking about Lt. Colonel Tran Ngoc Hue, I decided to draw a military helmet like the one he probably wore during his time in the military. It shows that he was a medic with a cross on the helmet. I also chose a face that shows him wearing a gas mask which he also would have worn. I painted the helmet in a camouflage design. I also put pictures on there that show others in the military who were also medics that would have assisted “Harry” in this war. I mixed paints together several times in different types of camo to get the perfect color that I felt would be right for the period that he was in the military. I did some highlighting on the mask to bring out all of the details.

After researching about “Harry” it has opened my eyes to the fact that everyone can be a hero. You do not have to be the strongest guy or the smartest to be a hero. There is no difference between a regular person and a hero. They just responded in a way that made a profound impact on others.

My future goal is to be in the military when I graduate from high school, so this was very educational and inspiring for me. Studying about “Harry” has given me some insight about how soldiers protect each other from the enemy. They would give their own lives for each other. My desire for this artwork is to commemorate Lt. Colonel Ngoc Hue and bring recognition to him that was denied him in the past.

Even after learning all of the things “Harry” went through I still want to join the military and have soldier brothers. Not only being in the military but possibly being a medic. In this way, I believe I can impact my community and country not only while serving in the military but even after my time in the military to work in a hospital as a doctor or nurse.

This project was a wonderful learning experience.