

Second Place – Douglas Adams

Service Beyond The Uniform

Service. We celebrate it on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Service is how someone selflessly supports their community, and how they improve the lives of hundreds. For this reason, I decided to interview my former teacher, Mr. Christopher Anderson.

Mr. Anderson started his career of service in the Navy, running escort missions in the Persian Gulf. On one mission, he and his ship rescued a boat full of Vietnamese refugees. It is this type of commitment and resolve that make a serviceman, and when I asked him if he had ever questioned his commitment, I got a resounding “no.” He said “The only question was if I should stay another four years.”

After his military career, he had to decide how he would continue to serve. Mr. Anderson is a man of integrity, and the only thing he loves more than his family and country is his community. He wanted to make a difference in the lives of kids. So even today, he is one of the best teachers in Hartland and an avid supporter of Hartland’s Community Education program because he loves “making a difference in his school, church, and community.”

Servicemen aren’t always identified by their uniforms; they are our teachers, firefighters, police officers – the people who dedicate their lives to making the lives of other better. To Mr. Anderson, his service is his life, and to him it means always striving to be a better person, and to make a difference to the people around him.