

Young Marine of the Year

To me, being Young Marine of the Year is not just a simple title and fancy award. It is an amazing opportunity; the once in a lifetime chance, as a child, to make my mark on the world and to have my voice to be heard. It is the ability to make a difference in the lives of others and to place my footprint in history. To be able to accomplish something so big and knowing I did it by myself makes me feel content. This is more than an honor to be selected to have a chance to be the Young Marine of the Year. It is my goal to always represent the Young Marines to the best of my ability, even when I graduate out of the Young Marines.

I understand that hard work, teamwork, and determination is what leads to success. Anyone can do it if they just believe in themselves and each other. A simple "well done" can be the turning point in someone's struggles. I have lived and watched my mother and those I love. I have learned from them and through them. In the few short years of my life, I have been taught that nothing is too hard to overcome. I have lived through a lot and survived a lot. Through everything, I have learned "that life is good and even when it's not, you can just dance silly anyway", a phrase my mom said I came up with when I was five years old while pointing out that I noticed something was wrong because she was "silly happy".

I have a yearning for knowledge and a deep desire to leave my footprint in this walk of life. I want to be that person that everyone remembers what they do, but no one remembers their name. Like the quotes where the author is unknown but people live by them. Life is how we make it. I, for one, want to make my life full, quiet and prideful, yet humble. I make things happen and get things accomplished every day because I am blessed enough to have a family and be part of a team that tells me to "go for it". Young Marines has taught me that I can be more and do more if I just believe in myself. It has taught me that limitations are limitless when working together. I am happy being me.

As Young Marine of the Year, I want to bring young people out of the shadows and get them involved. I want everyone regardless of their age or race to know that they are unique and have the ability to make a difference. Like the saying goes, "If you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will spend its whole life believing it is stupid" - author unknown. I want every youth and adult to compete with themselves and only themselves on a daily basis to do more and be more than they were the day before. Most importantly, I want them to feel the satisfaction that comes from accomplishing this on their own. I want them to build up their self-confidence and self-worth so that they have the courage and confidence to say no. Whether it is facing drugs or sex, I want their voice be heard so that the ground shakes. Once this is accomplished I want to show them that when we get together and plan, it makes an even bigger impact. With every person putting in their all, using their individual strengths, and applying it as a team effort, we have the power to move mountains.

I know that just because I could be Young Marine of the year doesn't mean I am better than anyone else. Everyone can go as far as I have, possibly further. I want all Young Marines to know they can make a difference. They can stop the drug abuse. They are in control of what they do. All they have to do is "Just Do It". As Young Marines, we need to live a healthy lifestyle, free of drugs, working as a team to strengthen the lives of America's youth and make a difference in this world. On our own we may be strong, but together, working as a team, we are unstoppable.

Semper Fidelis,
LCPL Waabiwaboose Morrison