

**THE AMERICAN VETERAN
MAY 2007 EDITION**

SEGMENT TITLE: YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

KANE FARABAUGH, HOST: IT'S NO SURPRISE THAT VA RELIES HEAVILY ON VOLUNTEERS. VETERAN SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS GIVE THOUSANDS OF HOURS HELPING VA DELIVER SERVICES TO VETERANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THE DRIVERS WHO TRANSPORT VETERANS FROM THEIR HOMES TO DISTANT CLINICS AND MEDICAL CENTERS ARE HEROES TO THOSE VETERANS IN NEED. WE'LL MEET A FEW OF THEM IN A MOMENT. BUT FIRST, LET'S GET TO KNOW TWO SPECIAL YOUTH VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE THE RECIPIENTS OF THIS YEAR'S JAMES H. PARKE YOUTH VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIP. SCOTT WALLACE HAS MORE.

ANDREW WISNESKI, VA YOUTH VOLUNTEER, SPEAKING FROM PODIUM TO CLASSROOM: OK, ON SATURDAY MARCH 31ST THERE WILL BE A CLEAN UP IN THE PARK.

SCOTT WALLACE, REPORTER: ANDREW WISNESKI IS ONLY 18 BUT HE'S ALREADY GOT A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF HOW HIS FUTURE IS GOING TO UNFOLD.

WISNESKI: I'M THE CO-PRESIDENT OF THE FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA CHAPTER AT SCHOOL, WHICH IS A BUSINESS CLUB THAT TRIES TO TEACH STUDENTS ABOUT BUSINESS, SO LATER ON IN LIFE THEY CAN GO IN WITH SOME PROFESSIONAL INSIGHT AND SKILLS.

WALLACE: WHILE ANDREW IS A POPULAR SENIOR. HE'S ALSO AT THE TOP OF THIS YEAR'S GRADUATING CLASS IN MORGAN HILL, CALIFORNIA.

TEACHER, WRITING ON WALLBOARD: LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION.

WISNESKI: I'M THE VALEDICTORIAN OF THE CLASS OF 2007 AT LIVE OAK HIGH SCHOOL AND I'M REALLY PROUD OF THAT.

WALLACE, AS WISNESKI PLAYS VIOLIN: IN HIS SPARE TIME, ANDREW PRACTICES THE VIOLIN, AN INSTRUMENT HE PLAYS WITH THE FLAIR OF A VIRTUOSO.

WALLACE: HE'S AN ONLY CHILD WHO CREDITS HIS PARENTS FOR HIS AMBITION AND PASSION FOR LEARNING.

WISNESKI: MY PARENTS HAVE ALWAYS INSPIRED ME TO WORK HARD AT SCHOOL AND SUCCEED AT SCHOOL SO THAT I CAN GO TO COLLEGE AND PURSUE WHATEVER I WANTED TO.

WALLACE: AND WHAT HE WANTS TO DO WILL REQUIRE LOTS OF DISCIPLINE AND HARD WORK.

WISNESKI: I'D LIKE TO GET A DEGREE IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING AND LATER ATTEND MEDICAL SCHOOL AND BECOME A PHYSICIAN AND SPECIALIZE IN EITHER CARDIOLOGY OR CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY.

WALLACE: HE IS ALREADY ON THAT PATH WITH HIS VOLUNTEER WORK AT THE SAN FRANCISCO VA MEDICAL CENTER.

ED MCNULTY, MD, CARDIOLOGIST, SAN FRANCISCO VAMC: NOW THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED ACCESS (TO A HOSPITAL PATIENT'S ARTERY). I WOULD LIKE A R-4 CATHETER.

WISNESKI: RIGHT AWAY.

WISNESKI: I STARTED 2 SUMMERS AGO WORKING IN THE CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION LAB WHERE PHYSICIANS ANALYZE AND TRY TO FIX BLOCKAGES IN ARTERIES IN PEOPLE'S HEART AND IT WAS REALLY FASCINATING TO JUST BE IN THAT ENVIRONMENT AND BE ALONGSIDE THOSE MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.

MCNULTY: PLEASE ADVANCE THE WIRE FOR ME, ANDREW.

MCNULTY: A LOT OF INFORMATION REALLY HAS TO COME IN AND GET ABSORBED AND PROCESSED AND ANDREW'S SORT OF A NATURAL. HE UNDERSTOOD THE PROCESS THAT WAS OCCURRING.

FEMALE HOSPITAL EMPLOYEE, TO WISNESKI: HOW WAS YOUR MORNING THIS MORNING?

WISNESKI: OH, IT WAS GREAT. I SAW ELIZABETH.

WALLACE: ANDREW'S VOLUNTEER DUTIES HAVE ALSO INCLUDED WORK IN THE CARDIOTHORACIC CELLULAR RESEARCH LAB. IT'S A SOLITARY PURSUIT THAT SHARPENS HIS EYE FOR THE MICROSCOPIC WORLD WHERE HE MAY WELL SPENT MUCH OF HIS CAREER.

WALLACE, AS WISNESKI PLAYS VIOLIN FOR PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: BUT HE HASN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE WORLD THAT PEOPLE – AND OUR VETERANS – INHABIT AS WELL.

WISNESKI: IT GIVES ME A SENSE OF PATRIOTISM TO BE WORKING FOR THESE VETERANS, TRYING TO HELP THEM IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE, SINCE I KNOW THEY'VE SERVED AND THEY'VE GIVEN THEIR ALL TO PRESERVING THE VALUES OF OUR COUNTRY, AND I REALLY APPRECIATE THAT.

WALLACE: THAT ATTITUDE, ALONG WITH HIS INTELLIGENCE AND LOVE OF PEOPLE, LANDED ANDREW THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL VA VOLUNTARY SERVICE YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP.

WISNESKI: I WAS JUST OVERJOYED! I MEAN I JUST COULDN'T BELIEVE IT.

AMANDA PENDLETON, VA YOUTH VOLUNTEER, TALKING TO VETERAN AT HER DESK: WHAT I NEED YOU TO DO IS FILL OUT THIS APPLICATION.

WALLACE: SECOND PLACE IN THE SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION GOES TO AMANDA PENDLETON FOR HER HELP TO VETERANS AT VA'S OUTPATIENT CLINIC IN DAYTONA, FLORIDA.

PENDLETON: I VOLUNTEER AT THE VA CLINIC HERE BECAUSE I'M ABLE TO GIVE BACK TO THE VETERANS THAT COME IN HERE. THEY HAVE ALREADY GIVEN UP SO MUCH OF THEIR LIVES TO BE ABLE TO DEFEND OUR COUNTRY AND GIVE US FREEDOM SO THE LEAST I CAN DO IS TO BE ABLE TO HELP THEM HERE IN THE CLINIC.

NATURAL SOUND: VIOLIN MUSIC

WALLACE (AS WISNESKI IS SEEN PLAYING VIOLIN FOR VETERANS IN HOSPITAL ROOM): WHATEVER PURSUIT THEY CHOOSE, WHEN YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN HONOR OUR VETERANS WITH THEIR VOLUNTARY SPIRIT AND SERVICE, EVERYONE COMES OUT A WINNER.

FARABAUGH: CONGRATULATIONS TO ANDREW AND AMANDA AND THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS AROUND THE NATION WHO HELP OUT AT VA FACILITIES. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON VOLUNTEERING FOR VA, GO TO WWW DOT VA DOT GOV SLASH VOLUNTEER.

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