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## Dream Comes True for Would-Be Marine



Glenn Heights (WBAP) - A dream has come true for a north Texas man who wanted to follow his father into the Marines. Chucky Stroop suffers from cerebral palsy and has undergone more than a dozen brain surgeries over the past 31 years. Two weeks ago, he survived emergency surgery, prompting the local VFW post to inquire about making Stroop an honorary Marine.

"When you get a chance to do something like this, it makes all those other days when it seems like you can't do anything right, it makes it all worth while," says Glenn Talley, the commander of VFW Post 8561.

The VFW worked with the Marine Corps League and organized a party for Stroop when he came home from the hospital. Stroop was told he would be presenting a medal to his father.



Stroop, his parents and brothers started crying when he was told he would be inducted into the Marines as an honorary private.

"I was shocked; I cried because I saw a dream come true. I thought I was here to honor the man who has stood by my side for 31 years," Stroop says. "I always wanted to be a part of that, but he did my fighting for me."



Stroop's father, Victor, was a Huey door gunner in Vietnam.

"When you become a Marine, you enter into a brotherhood that never goes away," he says.

This weekend's ceremony took place at the Stroops' home in Glenn Heights. The city's mayor and the doctors who delivered Stroop in 1981 also attended.

The ceremony was the first of its kind in Texas.

"Chuck has the honor to stand by his family. Chuck has the courage to endure what life throws at him, and Chuck has the commitment to finish and strive for success," says Stroop's brother, Thomas, who served on the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. "Those values, in my opinion and my heart, make for one mighty fine Marine."



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