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Third-generation bell ringer honors father and all who served on Veterans Day

By Dan Trupp

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Dan Trupp and his father, Harlin Trupp. (*Special to the Reporter-Herald*)

I am a proud American. I am a proud Veteran, having served in the Army for five years, including one year in Korea.

I am a proud grandson of two grandfathers that served in WWII.

I am a proud Loveland VFW bell ringer and ring the bell on Nov. 11, Veterans Day.

I am the proud son of a Marine who served and battled in Vietnam, and who is now battling cancer.

My Dad joined the VFW in Okinawa in 1969 and began ringing the bell with his father when he returned to the USA.

My Dad bought me a lifetime membership in the Sons of the American Legion in 1986. I was the youngest member of the group.

Seeing the love and pride my Dad had for his country, it was at that time decided that I would join the service.

We had the Marine recruiters to our home when I was planning on enlisting. I could see the pride in my Dad's eyes, thinking I would join the Corps. However, he also wanted me to have a career once left the military, so we talked to the Army.

My Dad put his love for the Marines aside when I chose the Army and telecommunications training, another path followed as my Dad retired after 30 years in the telecommunication field work.

And after ringing the bell alongside my Dad and Grandpa, in 2005 I took over the bell ringing for my family.

My Dad taught me that serving our country is an honor and that ringing the bell is a proud shout out to all our veterans and American citizens.

My Dad has always said "I wish all people could feel in their hearts the way veterans do on this national holiday."

We served, and many have die protecting our country, keeping this democracy, and honoring our way of life.

I am a proud son and am ringing on Veterans Day to honor my country, for our freedoms and with love always for my Dad, my hero.