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## Acknowledging Dedication.

*By Officer Nick Pasquarosa*

The discussion about should we or shouldn't we is over, America is at war and that is the way it is. Our family, friends, and neighbors who are part of the reserve military are being called up in record numbers. For me personally, the number of troops that have some connection to D-Y High School has reached a crescendo. Many of the young people I have worked with over the years are somewhere in the deployment cycle. Kevin Doherty recently completed his service with the Army after several tours in the middle east as a Ranger; Derek Webber got back a year ago; Rebecca Hinds, who told me at length when she was eight years old that America was wrong and should give the country back to the Indians, now serves that nation as a U.S. Army airborne medic in Iraq; Josh Drohan, former student council president and member for the Massachusetts National Guard just had his going away party. There are more, too many to mention here and still do justice to them. Suffice to say about half the faces of the young people featured on Channel 22 have been mine at some point during their time at D-Y. While some of their enlistments were prewar many took place in the midst of this growing conflict. I have been continuously impressed with the commitment, dedication, and patriotism shown by our young people. My hat is off to them.

Most recently my friend, Assistant Principal Tony Morrison began his deployment. He and his Massachusetts National Guard Sikorsky UH-60 Blackhawk are on the way to the war zone. It is an event we his coworkers have been anticipating since the commencement of hostilities on 9/11. It has been my privilege to serve the students, parents and teachers of D-Y by his side for the past four years. He has done so with enthusiasm, dedication, wisdom and empathy. While I regret that over the next fifteen months the students will not benefit from his hard work and cheerful personality, I am filled with a pride and confidence that those who go to war with him will. Tony and the many others from D-Y are the best we have to offer to the effort. To our homegrown soldiers I humbly say thank you. To my friend I say: don't wait - shoot straight and come home soon and safe. We will keep your chair warm for you.

President John F, Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." Everyone should take notice of their collective example of service and dedication to something larger than themselves.

Blackhawk Up!