



# Family and Comedy Aid Veteran's Recovery

**SERVING IN DESERT STORM**, Robert (Bobby) Henline was already a seasoned war Veteran by the age of 19. He left the military after the war but frequently thought about returning. Over the course of the next ten years, Bobby would get married and have a family, occasionally hinting about returning to serve his nation. As a family, they never quite agreed on his return until September 11th, 2001.

Bobby returned to basic training and deployed to Iraq for his second time in 2003. He would return to Iraq two more times and on his fourth return, said he felt an uneasiness. "I knew it was my fourth time going to Iraq, and I felt like something was different," said Henline. On April 7th, 2007, Bobby Henline became the lone survivor of a roadside bomb attack, burning 38% of his body.

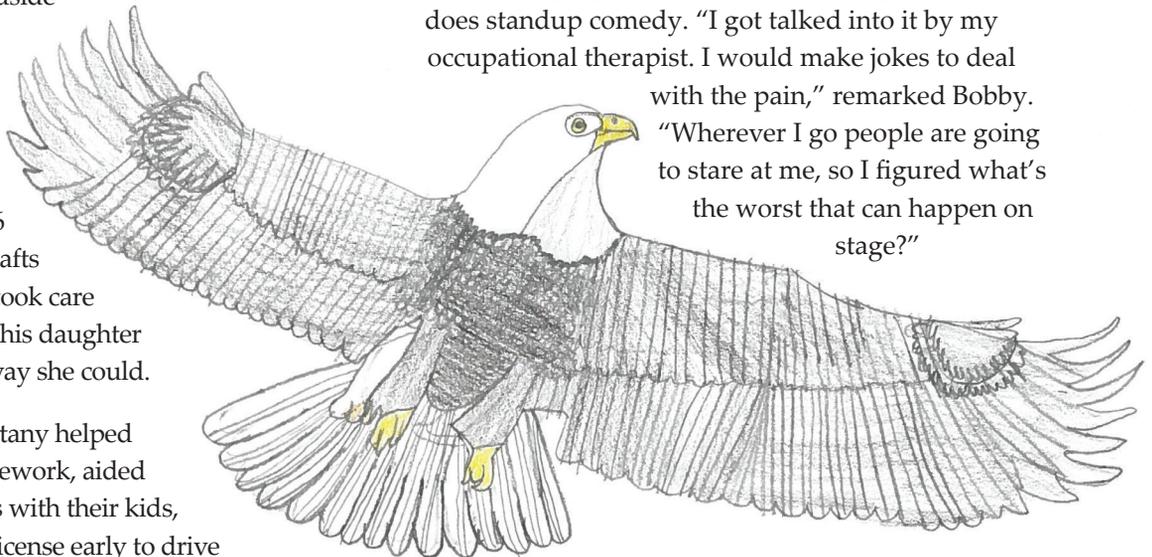
It would take a month in ICU, five and a half months as an inpatient, and 16 months for his skin grafts to take. Bobby's wife took care of him every day and his daughter stepped up in every way she could.

Bobby's daughter Brittany helped her siblings with homework, aided other military families with their kids, and even earned her license early to drive her siblings to school. Brittany became the first recipient of the *Operation Homefront Military Child Award* for her loyalty to her family and service to others.

corner." Bobby relied upon his faith, and that helped him get through his tough first year. "He had a mission for me. It was hard to figure out what that was the first year, but I decided to keep living and see what happens."

Using comedy became a way for Bobby to get through his challenging time. He now attends open mics and does standup comedy. "I got talked into it by my occupational therapist. I would make jokes to deal with the pain," remarked Bobby.

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When asked if he ever gets tired of telling his story Bobby said, "No because there is always someone who

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It took Bobby almost three years to fully recover from his injuries. "The doctors said there is no medical explanation for why I am alive," said Henline. "It took about a year after the accident before I finally felt like I was turning a

needs to hear it. If I share my story, I can help others." Bobby Henline is an American hero who never allowed challenges to keep him down. His story will continue to inspire others, and we thank him for his service.

Artwork by Jade, Grade 4 • U.S. Air Force