

Red, White, and Blue Christmas
The Story of A Real Christmas Tree
By Shannon McNamara
Age 7

My Daddy is in the U.S. Army. In 2002 he was in Bosnia, my blue Christmas. In 2003, my Daddy was in Germany, my red Christmas. In 2004, my daddy was able to be right here with me in Virginia, my white and very happy Christmas. Red, White, and Blue are also the colors of our flag, and these colors remind me of my Daddy and all the people in the military.

My Daddy grew up in a large family where his parents and bothers and sisters went to cut down their real Christmas tree, always a few days before Christmas. The children would go to bed with just a tree. In the morning, when they awoke, Santa Claus not only brought gifts, but he also decorated the tree.

Because my Daddy was away in the military, we could not practice this tradition over the last few years. But this year we could and did. Just a very few days before Christmas, my dad packed my brother, my mom, and me in a van and we drove to a tree farm somewhere in Virginia, it seemed like forever. Daddy finally brought us to a tree farm, and we saw the most beautiful Christmas trees in the world. We had a hard time picking the best one for our home, but we finally did, and daddy took out his saw and cut the tree down. We had the best real Christmas tree ever!

We tied our Christmas tree to the roof of the van, and left for home. Daddy told us stories of his favorite Christmas trees over the years and we listened to Christmas songs on the radio. I was very excited to have my real Christmas tree and Daddy home, all at the same. I knew Christmas was only a few days away, and couldn't wait to see how Santa Claus would decorate our Christmas tree.

Christmas Eve came and went and my little brother and I went to bed dreaming about our Christmas tree and what it would look like in the morning. We woke up very early the next morning to the most wonderful site, our real Christmas tree decorated with red, white, and blue Christmas balls and lights. My prayers were answered, Santa decorated our real tree with my real feelings in mind, the Red, White, and Blue colors that remind me of my Dad, our country, and all the men and women in military service.

The End.

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