

# Saluting Grandpa

Celebrating Veterans and Honor Flight

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Foreword by **Tom Brokaw**

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## Dedication

This book is dedicated to the family of Staff Sergeant **Andy Tolliver** and all families who have sacrificed and are sacrificing to preserve our freedoms.



## Author's Note

On Andy Tolliver's final day with us, I got the chance to talk to him about how he inspired the idea for this book. I told him that through this story — he lives on. He smiled as I offered him my best salute — a final salute to a true American hero.



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# Foreword

**One of the most gratifying rewards** of having written *The Greatest Generation* is the unexpected dividend of witnessing veterans from that difficult time sharing their experiences and wisdom with their grandchildren.

Certainly it happened in my family, and from what I am told by so many others, it continues to happen now with great-grandchildren as well.

These are the sinews of American life that make us stronger in every way, and we must relish them. Especially during times of trial and challenge.

In this wonderful book about those relationships, you'll be rewarded with the understanding and emotion that comes with generation to generation conversation and common experience.

Moreover, if you buy it and send to many friends, you'll be helping one of the most rewarding experiences a member of the Greatest Generation can have — an Honor Flight to the nation's capital to witness the memorial to all they did to save the world.

**Tom Brokaw**





**"Back straight!** Suck that belly in! Lift that elbow!" Grandpa playfully ordered as his great-grandson tried to keep up.

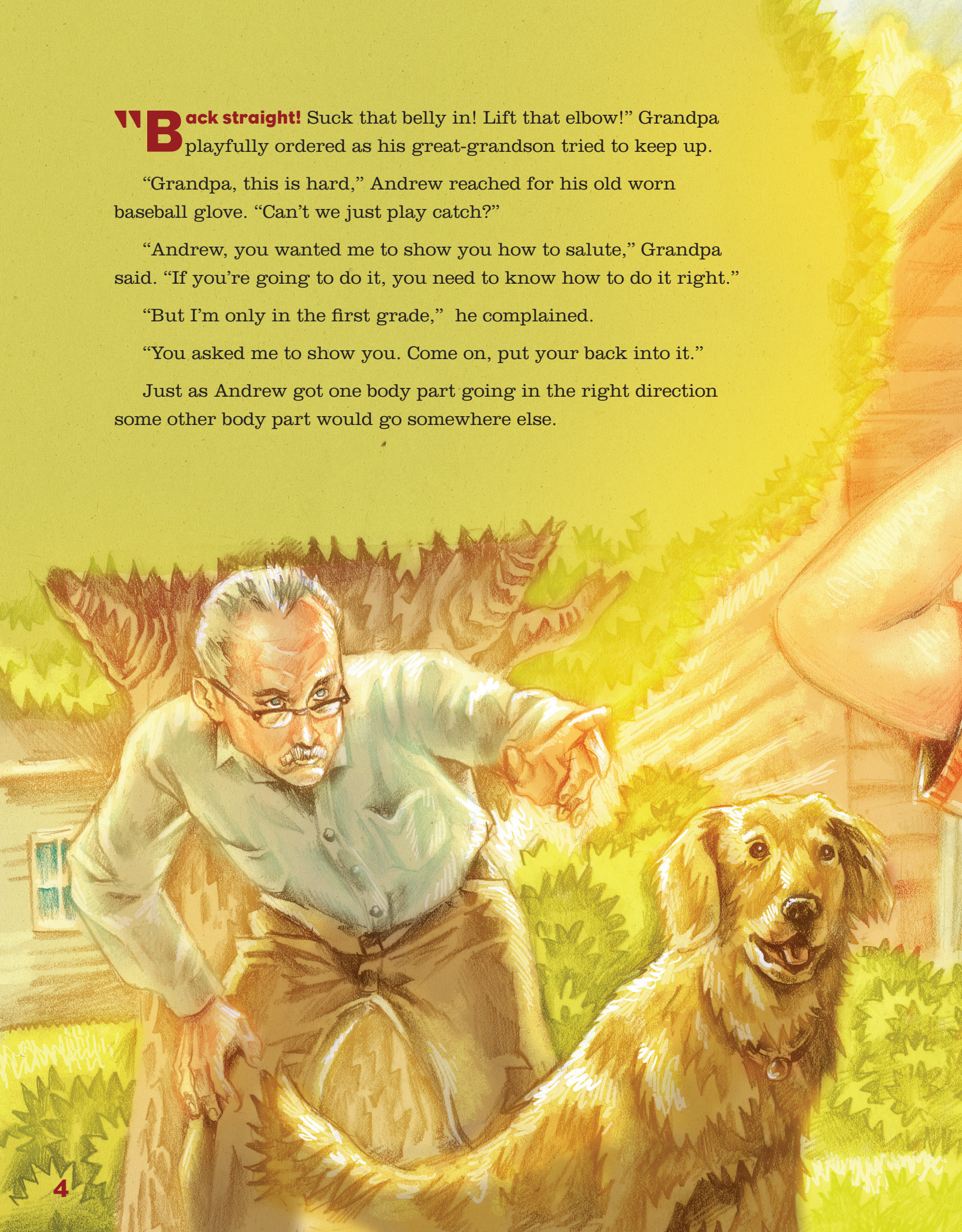
"Grandpa, this is hard," Andrew reached for his old worn baseball glove. "Can't we just play catch?"

"Andrew, you wanted me to show you how to salute," Grandpa said. "If you're going to do it, you need to know how to do it right."

"But I'm only in the first grade," he complained.

"You asked me to show you. Come on, put your back into it."

Just as Andrew got one body part going in the right direction some other body part would go somewhere else.







“Take a break, Andrew,” Grandpa said. “We’ll try again tomorrow.”





**T**hey sat down on the porch. Grandpa did what he always does lately when they sat down — he fell asleep.

Grandpa had been kind of sad lately and didn't have much energy to play. He had been like this since he got the letter from the people with the Honor Flight. Andrew had heard about the Honor Flight in school and really wanted Grandpa to go on the trip. He was proud that his grandpa helped saved the world from the bad guys in World War II. But Grandpa didn't feel like talking about it.

Andrew was sure he would share his stories with him. They were best buddies, after all. But so far, Grandpa kept saying, "Maybe when you are older."

Andrew had hoped the 'salute thing' would get him talking. But it hadn't worked. It just meant more work for *him*.



