

Inspired by the courage of U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Raymond J. Plouhar of the 3rd Battalion 5th Marine Regiment from Lake Orion, Michigan, Chuck White, along with Morgan Cryar, an accomplished musician from Nashville, Tennessee, felt compelled to write this song.

With video assistance from Bruce Spike, Joseph Brancik, Bill Morgan, and everyone at Armstrong White, this piece of work serves as a testament that Raymond's incessant fight for freedom will live on.

It was a perfect summer's Sunday afternoon. We just finished breakfast with the family dining in downtown Clarkston, Michigan when my wife showed me the newspaper article with Sgt. Raymond's poem. A local Marine was killed. He lived in the next town over. I was so moved by his courage and life story I attempted to turn his poem into a song. Raymond, I can't wait to meet you someday. You're my hero.

Sincerely, Chuck[

Don't Feel Pity For Me

His mom and dad would watch him  
Playing army in the yard  
Everything's a rifle  
When you're a soldier at heart  
He was every ounce, a boy with dreams  
At the ripe old age of twenty  
He put on the uniform  
Semper Fi and born to die,  
tattooed on his arm  
He was every ounce, a true marine  
In a moments inspiration  
He scribbled down a note  
This is what he wrote

CHORUS:

This is me, it's who I am  
I'm a marine, to the very end  
I will live, I will fight  
I will love and I will die  
And as long as you are free  
Don't feel pity for me

He got married to his sweetheart  
And they had a couple kids  
Wasn't long till he was shipped out  
To go do what he did  
They were every ounce, part of his soul  
He would savor every letter  
Read them over and again  
When he asked for grandpa's bible  
They sent it to him then

He was every ounce, ready to go  
And in a moments inspiration  
He wrote his wife a note  
And this is what he wrote

CHORUS:

This is me, it's who I am  
I'm a marine, to the very end  
I will live, I will fight  
I love you, but if I die  
As long as you are free  
Don't feel pity for me

You could hear a pin drop  
As the bugle starts to sound  
The flag was quickly folded  
Every head was bowed  
Then a woman stands  
and reads to them a note  
This is what he wrote

CHORUS:

This is me, it's who I am  
I'm a marine, to the very end  
I will live, I will fight  
I will love and I will die  
And as long as you are free  
I fought to keep you free  
So as long as you are free  
Don't feel pity for me