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I did not start out life destined to become a nurse. My nursing career came about as a series of fortunate events that have led me to where I am now. My childhood was filled with emotional and physical pain at the hands of abusive parents. I was hospitalized frequently. My memories of these hospitalizations centered on nursing staff that were always there to comfort a scared and lonely child. I was eventually removed from my abusive situation, and was given the opportunity to grow, as any normal child should. As high school graduation approached, it was becoming increasingly necessary to focus on a career path and a college to attend. I was being pushed to enter journalism by counselors and teachers based on my writing ability. I enjoyed writing, but it was not really a passion. By complete chance I came across an application for a nursing ROTC scholarship. Without even thinking, I applied for the scholarship. The profound impact that nurses had on my life as a child immediately became apparent. A few months later, after a grueling application process, I received a four-year ROTC scholarship to pursue a nursing degree upon graduation from high school.

I enjoyed college and nursing school. However it was not until clinicals in the second semester of my senior year that I knew for certain that I had made the right choice. I cared for an elderly man, dying from prostate cancer, who wanted nothing more than to get out of a hospital gown, and put his own clothes on. All of the rigors of nursing school made this seem such a simple request. I assisted the man to dress. As I was tying his dress shoes, the man placed his hand on my head, and told me that there was a special place in heaven for someone like me. Just as the nurses who had cared for me as a child had such a profound impact on me, I again quickly realized the impact that I could have on patients as a nurse. I knew that I had taken the right path to become a registered nurse.

My career has taken many turns. I started as a new graduate on an Oncology unit in a major Army Medical Center. I had the chance to spend time in an Emergency Department, and spent time overseas caring for soldiers and their families. I transitioned out of the military full time, and again began taking care of cancer patients on the east coast. More opportunity presented itself in the form of management. And ultimately the birth of my son led me to Michigan to continue my career in the home state of my beloved wife, also a nurse. The rewards that nursing has given me are countless. I am unable to imagine a career that could be any more personally fulfilling. Ultimately the greatest reward nursing has given to me, is the ability to have an impact on the lives of patients and nurses, in the same way that I was touched so long ago.