Many of you may have seen the 5 Yell Leaders on Kyle Field during the A&M v. Alabama game on Saturday afternoon. Each Yell Leader embodies the spirit and tradition of Texas A&M University, but one man took a unique journey to get to this point in his college career.

Roy May is a 34-year-old Army veteran and Junior Yell Leader at Texas A&M this fall. However, Roy has been an Aggie since the day he was born in Bryan, Texas. “My earliest memories always come back to A&M, whether it be watching Aggie football with my dad, listening to Dave South on the radio broadcast or visiting campus” said Roy. “My closet and drawers have always been full of maroon and white and I remember sporting a 12th Man towel to school growing up.”

Roy enlisted in the United States Army at a young age and served his country for 12 years with valor and distinction. He served in Iraq in 2009 as an Infantry Squad Leader in the 82nd Airborne, participated in rescue efforts in the Pentagon beginning the night of September 11, 2001 for eighteen straight days of 12-hour shifts and also earned the honor of standing guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery. He also had the privilege of serving as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge as the Former President Reagan laid in state in the Capitol Rotunda.

“I spent over 12 years on active duty in the Army but never lost sight of getting back to Texas A&M. I feel it’s incredibly important for my daughter, Kira, to grow up in a home where both parents have college degrees, and my wife (Megan, Army veteran) already earned hers. I wanted to ensure that I set the example for my daughter for her future education, as my wife had already done so.”

This dedication to his family and his education brought Roy back to Texas A&M in the Fall of 2011 to pursue a degree in Industrial Distribution. But Texas A&M is more than just academics to the May family. Roy is a member of the Delta Company, the Combat Veteran outfit in the Corps of Cadets, as well as many other organizations and activities with his wife and daughter.

Roy truly exemplifies the Aggie Core Values in every aspect of his life. In his own words, “Each Value holds its own incredibly important setting in the foundation of our lives... Integrity is the base we all build our live upon. Selfless Service sets Aggies apart. Leadership is a value ingrained on a regular basis and Respect is something that is woven into our daily lives on and off campus. I’m just proud to be a part of the Aggie family, now and forever.” Roy May is truly a servant of Texas A&M and our campus community. We are proud of his service to our nation, to our state, and to our beloved university.