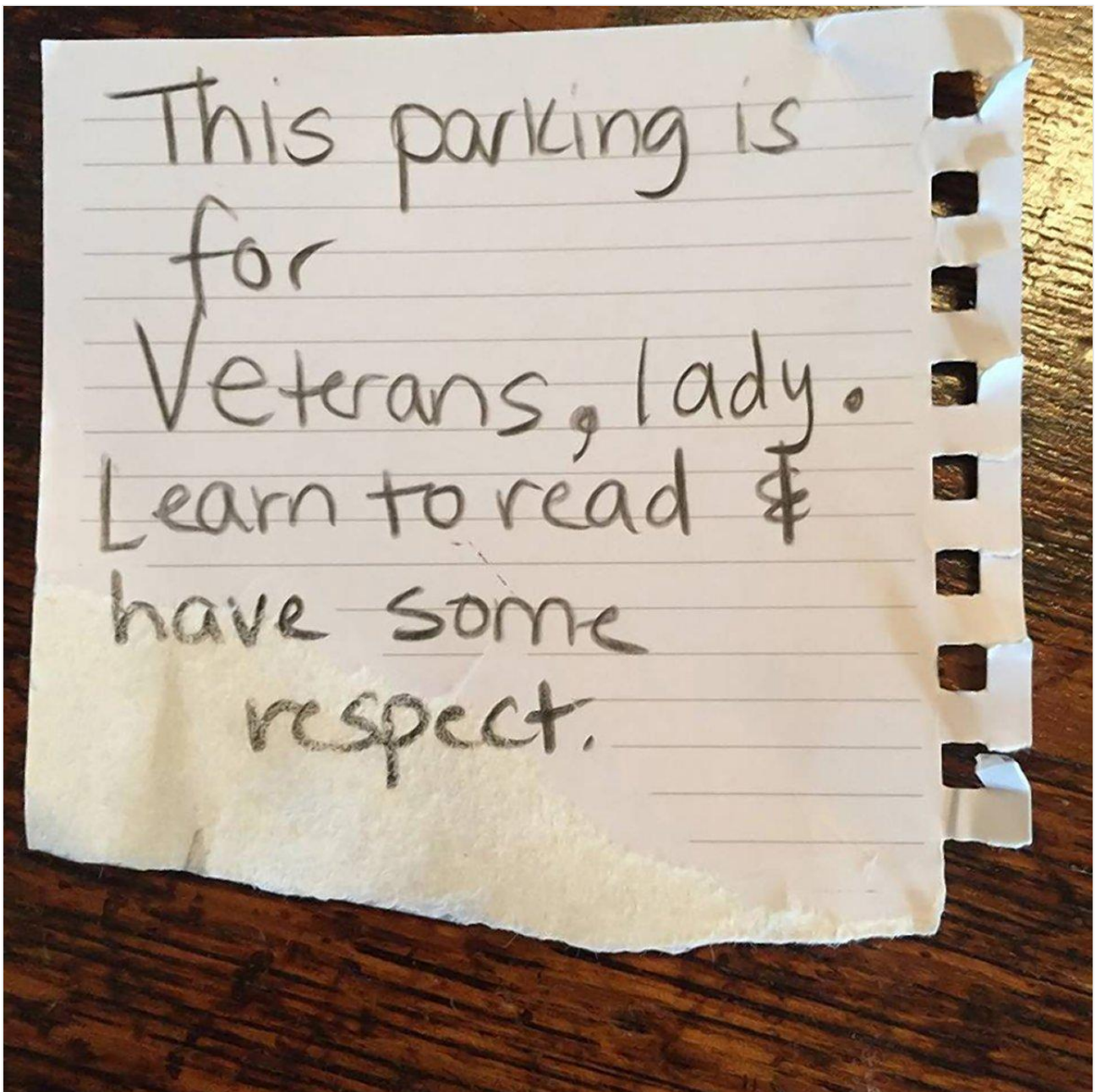


N.C. veteran blasts 'misogynistic' note left on car windshield

BY REECE T. WILLIAMS

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Rebecca Landis Hayes found this note on her car after parking in a spot reserved for veterans at a Concord, N.C. grocery store. (REBECCA LANDIS HAYES/FACEBOOK)

A veteran from North Carolina is being saluted on social media after someone left a scolding handwritten note on her car windshield.

Rebecca Landis Hayes — who served for eight years in the Navy — parked Monday in one of the “reserved veteran parking” spots at a Harris Teeter grocery store in Concord, N.C.

“It was hot. I had been in and out of my car several times already this afternoon, and I was only going to be a minute,” she explained in a Facebook post.

She returned to find an anonymous handwritten note on her windshield that read, “This parking is for Veterans, lady. Learn to read & have some respect.”

Hayes posted a picture of the note with a message of her own.

“I’m sorry that your narrow misogynistic world view can’t conceive of the fact that there are female Veterans,” she wrote.

“I’m sorry that I have to explain myself to people like you. Mostly, I’m sorry that we didn’t get a chance to have this conversation face to face, and that you didn’t have the integrity and intestinal fortitude to identify yourself, qualities the military emphasizes.

“Which leads to one question, I served, did you?” she added.

The post has been shared more than 6,000 times by Wednesday afternoon.

Previously, Hayes had avoided parking in the reserved spots for “fear that someone would think I didn’t belong,” she said Wednesday. “There’s no requirement or license plate,” so parking there is based on “an honor system.”



Hayes served as a physician in the Navy for eight years. (REBECCA LANDIS HAYES/FACEBOOK)

Harris Teeter released a statement about the situation.

"It is unfortunate anyone would receive a note like this, and we are certainly disappointed it happened while this veteran was shopping in our store," the company wrote. "We have reached out to Rebecca directly to thank her for her service as well as invite her to our Coddle Creek Harris Teeter this Friday, so we can offer a small token of our appreciation."

This isn't the first time a female veteran has received a critical note in one of the grocery store's parking lots.

Air Force veteran Mary Claire Caine had a similar note left on her windshield in a Wilmington, N.C. Harris Teeter parking lot in January 2015.

"For a split second I thought, 'Am I a worthy enough veteran to park in this spot?' And, then I got very angry at myself for even considering that," she told NBC affiliate WECT.

"Feeling overwhelmed (sic) by the positive responses to my post this afternoon Thank you to all my friends, family, and fellow Veterans," Hayes posted to Facebook on Monday. "I truly appreciate your kind words and support. I hope my experience will help remind people that there is no ONE Veteran type."

"Reserved veteran parking" spots were designated at various Harris Teeter locations in recent years.

The grocery chain is owned by Kroger and operates more than 230 stores across seven states and the District of Columbia.

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