

“Why I am an American Patriot”

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“ I venture to suggest that patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.” This statement, spoken in 1952 by a true American Patriot, Ambassador Adlai Stevenson, reflects the most important way in which patriotism should be expressed. Although I am no Ambassador to the United Nations, I can still express my patriotism in meaningful ways throughout my entire life as an American citizen.

There are many ways in which I classify myself as an American Patriot. A patriot is a person who loves, supports, and defends their country. I help care for my grandfather, a wounded World War II veteran, as he struggles through his senior years with his artificial leg. When we are together, he tells me stories of the difficult times in combat on the Italian front, as Allied forces struggled to free Rome. He still has vivid memories of his last day in combat, when his platoon got hit and how many brave men died for their country on that foreign soil.

Also, I am helping to support my country and those who serve it when I participate in asking for donations during the VFW buddy poppy drive. I volunteer in the drives to work with my dad, a Vietnam and Gulf War veteran. He says you are a patriot when you work for veterans and those still serving our nation. Though I cannot serve in the military at my age, I surely can respect the men and women who do serve and defend it, both here and abroad.

Not all the ways of being a patriot involve service members and veterans. Some ways can be right in your school and your community. At school, I show support and respect to my country every morning by standing and reciting the “Pledge of Allegiance.” It is a simple act, but if you really mean it as you say it, you’re being a patriot.

A final way that I am an American Patriot is by assisting in food pantry and donation kettle drives for the local Salvation Army. By doing those things, I support my country in my own community by aiding people who are in need of help.

I believe that all these activities are what Ambassador Stevenson was talking about when he said that being a patriot was a “dedication of a lifetime.”