



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

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“What Patriotism Means to Me”

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Patriotism...the love for and devotion to one’s country. But it goes beyond just that. I see patriotism as actions – the willingness to fight for one’s country, what propels women to run the family business while the men are fighting for our country, having the courage to stand up for what you believe in, voting, and it is what our fifty-six forefathers demonstrated when they stepped forward to sign the Declaration of Independence. No matter your age, you can be a patriot.

You may be thinking that you aren’t able to fight for our country, you don’t need to run a business for someone who is fighting, and the Declaration of Independence has already been signed. But, you can be a patriot by being aware of what is going on in our country, speaking up for what you believe in, supporting our troops, getting informed about elections and voting. You should be praying for our country, its leaders, its troops, and its citizens. Our actions will encourage others to do the same.

Take Abraham Lincoln as an example. Born into a poor family in Hodgenville, Kentucky. His parents were patriots instilling in him the love for our country. If they hadn’t he might not have cared enough to stand up for what he believed in. He may not have become a lawyer, a Whig party leader a state Legislator, a U.S. Representative, or President of the United States of America. We all know that if he had not become president, slavery might not have been abolished and our country might have been permanently divided.

So how does a thirteen year old like me be a patriot? When I see the American flag, I put my hand over my heart and think about all the great things our country has accomplished and that all the great leaders of our country were once my age. I have had the honor of carrying flags for rodeo grand entries. My favorite flag is the beautiful American flag as it is the most important flag and the greatest honor to carry it.

So remember, patriotism is the freedom to express your beliefs and to act on those beliefs. Pursue your God-given talents to better our country – no matter what age you are.