

# What being an American means to me ....



By LUCY GOSSELIN

Being an American means being free. And in order for us good people to be free, many men and women made many sacrifices including family, friends parties, birthdays, anniversaries, and the ultimate sacrifice, their lives. I am so glad to be an American because if I was from any other country I would probably not be allowed to go to school right now. I love living in America because we are free to make our own choices, if we lived in any other country we wouldn't get to choose what our major or career was. I am very glad that we live in America, we are all very lucky.

By NATHAN FELTON

Being an American to me is to be free and to make your own decisions. Also to fight for our freedom and keep it that way. Being an American gives us freedom of speech. But to me it mainly means to help people find their way to a democratic society exactly like ours.

By MARIAH GORDINE

Being an American is very important. Because we have the choice of freedom. We as Americans are very lucky to have the choice of freedom. Along with freedom we get many rights. Not a lot of countries have total freedom as we ourselves do. We didn't always have freedom. We have had soldiers die to keep our freedom.

And because of those soldiers we have freedom today.

By JOSH GALLUNTINE

Being an American to me is mostly about freedom. There are many other aspects though. For one, everyone is treated as an equal, no matter who you are. Another thing is that I can vote (at the legal age). But most of all, being an American is about freedom. Without it I wouldn't have the rights I have now.

By HANNAH FULTON

I'm proud to live in this country. We have soldiers who risk their lives just for us. Americans, to be free and for other countries to be free. I have a lot of relatives who have fought in a variety of wars just to make me and others around me free. Our country has to be the most awesome country in the world, especially to live in and be a free person. The soldiers who have or are fighting right now in a war should be considered heroes. They fought for freedom and weren't or aren't afraid to die trying.

By JESSICA GILGENBACH

I like being in the United States because I get to choose a lot of things. I get to choose what I want to be when I grow up. I get to choose who I want to vote for in the presidential elections. To me being free is the most special thing because we have soldiers that risk their lives for us to be free. I have a cousin over in Iraq fighting in the Iraqi war. In the United States you do not have a monarch ruling over you and telling you what you can and can not do.

By AMANDA DELIMONT

What being an American means to me. Being an American means being a member of a free society. Being a citizen of a country that fought to form a free democratic government. I'm proud to be a citizen of a country who allows the people to make decisions in what concerns them most. I'm proud to live in a country that helps the needy and helpless people of other countries. I'm proud to be an American because we are willing to defend our freedom at all costs. The most important part about being an American to me is knowing that my family and I are safe and can choose our own religion.



Bobby Dole

# Almena man enlists as a military medic

Bobby Dole of Almena has enlisted to be a medic.

He will attend basic training in Missouri and advanced training in Texas to learn how to be both a soldier and a military medic. Both basic training and his medic course convert to college credit hours that he may use toward his degree completion.

He will receive a \$10,000 sign-on bonus, \$17,568 in Montgomery GI Bill and GI Bill Kicker payments while a full-time college student, and 100 percent tuition assistance so that he may complete his college degree. This is in addition to his monthly drill weekend pay and all of the other benefits of Army National Guard membership.

By KATELYNN GALLENTE

What being an American means to me; it means that a lot of people have died for my freedom. I have the right to vote when I'm of age and be free and speak up when something needs to be said. America is with freedom and the ability to know you are safe all around the world. A democratic society is important to me because everyone is treated equal. I like to live in a country that gives me the right to be free, because freedom and safety means a lot to all and that's what our soldiers are for.

By KAYLA FOLEY

To me freedom means a lot. Here we take it for granted and we shouldn't. There are a lot of other countries who would love to have as much freedom as we do, such as speaking our opinions, right to protest and not be afraid. Mostly freedom means a lot to me because I have the right to go to school, play sports, be in clubs and memberships if I want to be in them.

By LORI MAY EBNER

If some people came up and asked me what it meant to be an American I'd have to reply with one simple word: a lot. It really means a lot to me to be an American. It means you have freedom, the right to make your own choices and live the life the way you want to.

Being an American means you have freedom of choice, speech, and many other things. Without the soldiers who risked their lives to defend us and give us the freedom we have today we would be under communist rule today and would have no choice in what we want to do or what we want to say. None of us would be as free spirited and happy as we are today.

Being an American means living your life your own way. Under communist rule you couldn't do that. You would have to live a certain way. You would have no choice in what you wanted and didn't want. Be proud to be an American!

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