Abigail G. 7th gr Poem

Patriotism to Me!

For me it means hugs good bye,

Seeing my parent through a computer

It means saying "bye" to friends

And "hello" to new ones

It means seeing new things

And leaving old ones

It means only mom at soccer games

But she cheers like two

It means having my sister as my best friend

When I have no one else

I am a military child

Poem - 7 - F

Rachael H. 7th gr essay

Subject: patriotism

From:

To:

Date: Saturday, August 31, 2013 3:28 PM

Patriotism Today

When I hear the word "patriot," I immediately think of the colonists during the American Revolution. These men and women are called Patriots, but they also could have been known as traitors, rebels, or fools. They were fighting for their rights and freedoms. My definition of a patriot is someone who is willing to sacrifice for the good of his or her country because of a love of our country. This is someone with courage, and with a plan or direction for the nation that is not just for personal gain or fame. Patriots today are found all over the globe, in our armed forces, in the foreign service, and in our communities such as those in police departments, fire departments, and in our courts.

Today, the same definition applies. We still need patriots in our country who want the best for our country. We need those who are willing to improve our way of life and guarantee our freedoms.

Patriotic vision

Our forefathers fought the Revolutionary War because they had a dream. In that dream, they saw an independent country free from England's grasp. When people would not be denied their basic rights, citizens could choose the leadership they needed and wanted. This is what our forefathers envisioned when they fought for freedom and designed our system of government. Before our constitution was written, as one of our national songs declares, our patriots had a dream that saw "beyond the years." They "more than selves their country loved." We benefit every day from the the freedoms they fought for that stemmed from the clear and liberating vision they had for us.

The cost of patriotism

Patriotism is not always easy or convenient or safe. Few of us will ever defend our country with our lives. I knew someone who did. A man we knew in South Africa was killed in Benghazi, Libya last September 11th. I consider

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him a modern patriot. He was killed because he was a symbol of our country. He was killed simply because he was an American who went to work in an embassy. He is known as a hero now, often by people who a few weeks before his death were calling all federal workers lazy and overpaid. During the Revolutionary War, if you were caught spying against the British, you would be executed. Nathan Hale volunteered to spy on the British. He was caught, and was hanged for his efforts. Before he died, he said his now famous last words, "I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country." I consider him a true patriot because he was willing to sacrifice for his and our freedom.

Daily patriotism

There are many ways that we can show and develop a devotion for our country. This often begins in our communities. Students should try to get a good education to help strengthen our nation economically. Parents are responsible for raising civilized children in our society, teaching them to uphold the laws of the land, to participate in government, and to give back to society. Serving others is a strong symbol of American history and our society. We can help take care of the elderly by visiting care centers, reading for the blind, and stopping by to talk to them. Many in our communities are disabled and need our assistance. Patriotism more than criticizing our pointing out problems. It is problem solving. If you want to be a patriot, pick a problem and help resolve it.

To conclude, America is not perfect; however, as long as there are true patriots, our future remains bright. True patriots do not dress up as Ben Franklin, memorizing the constitution, to parade around in tricorn hats. True patriotism is quiet, directed action to push our nation ahead. True patriots work in quiet, often unrecognized ways to help their country. Patriots have a dream, a vision to bring the nation together, and not to divide it. I am grateful for patriots today who risk their lives for my freedom. I am grateful for patriots who reach out to help others and solve problems.

Gabe I. 7th gr essay

For Love of My Country: What Patriotism Means to Me

A lot of us are lucky to have a roof over our heads and have a meal or two every day. A lot of people do not recognize this, and some people take advantage of that. I know that I used to, until I learned the story of my parents and grandparents.

I am a Filipino American, born at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington. I am very proud to call myself an American. This country offers so much to people who live here, and to people who come here in search of a better life.

My grandfather on my mom's side grew up in a very poor area in the northern part of the Philippines. They did not have a roof over their heads, and struggled just to have food. They lived like pioneers, building their own homes, fishing with their bare hands, and planting tobacco leaves and rice to support their family. My grandfather found a way out of that and was recruited into the take the U.S. Navy exam, then was recruited to join the Coast Guard. He was in Alameda, CA for boot camp, and his first duty station was in Pensacola, FL on board the USCG cutter WHEC-42 Sebago. My grandfather to support America, and to earn money to support his family back in the Philippines.

My maternal grandmother was an exchange visitor nurse and came to the U.S. right after graduating college. Her first place of work was in West Orange, New Jersey in November 1969 and she was not ready for the cold weather. After going to Charlottesville, Virginia, then she transferred to Galveston, Texas. My grandfather

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was already stationed in Texas in the Coast Guard. My maternal grandparents met while fishing on the loading dock at USCG base Galveston. They got married, and then my mother was born.

My paternal grandparents had good jobs in the Philippines and they could afford to hire help to take care of their three children, my Dad included. They then immigrated to the United States when my Dad was 13 years old. My grandparents couldn't find a job right away, even though they both had business degrees. The whole family including my aunt, my Dad and my uncle, had to work in order to maintain their house and their meals. Their whole family became naturalized U.S. citizens after that.

Presently, my Dad is an officer in the United States Army. I look up to him because he has overcome many obstacles, and because his work is not easy. He is the reason I have what I have, a roof over my head, and food on the table. Not everyone can support their family and support the United States of America at the same time. He loves my family and the USA enough to support both of us. For the love of my country, I, too, would like to join the U.S. Army to follow my Dad and support both my family, and the USA one day.

Presently, my Mom is attending school to become a social worker. She will help people in areas that are poor and less fortunate. A social worker isn't an easy job either. My mom wants to become the type of social worker who helps the families who lost someone serving the military in war, which is an excellent thing to help out the USA. Losing a part of your family is one of the most difficult things to deal with. Words cannot express that. Those people who risked their lives, got

injured or died at war, they did so fighting for our country. They loved the U.S. so much that they risked their lives in order to support us. My mother can help out those families who must deal with losing their husband, wife, son, or daughter.

My family is an example of what patriotism means to me. Every one should be grateful for what their parents, grandparents, and guardians have done and still do for them. I am proud of my country and what we do. I am proud to be a citizen of The United States of America.

Emma P. 7th gr essay

The Meaning of Patriotism

What *does* patriotism mean, in today's America? Everyone, it seems, has their own opinion on the meaning of that elusive word, and hardly any of these opinions are simple. But for me, patriotism has always meant, always will mean, true love of one's country. And if you truly love your country, you will give anything for her, no matter what it might be. You will really try to do what is best for her, and not just stay at home and gripe about the state of the government. If you see injustice being done in her name, you will try to end it, even if you might not be one of the citizens directly benefitted by it.

There is certainly nothing wrong with hanging a flag on your front porch or dressing up as Uncle Sam on Independence Day. But these things by themselves are not patriotism, because they are superficial. In the long run it won't matter whether you have done them or not.

Patriotism is a grizzled old Vietnam veteran who has to ride in the Independence Day parade. He can't walk because he gave his right leg to a nation that's only just begun to thank him for the gift. He's seen horrible, terrifying things when he was overseas, and he hasn't yet forgotten them. But he isn't bitter because his sacrifice might have been more than he expected. On the contrary, he loves her just as much as ever, if not more, and his wrinkled old face will light up if you take the time to thank him for his service.

Patriotism is children lying awake in bed for hours on end, anxiously wondering where their mother, father, or grownup friend is now, and whether he or she is as safe there as they'd like. But even as they wonder, they are proud of their loved ones. Proud of them for giving up the comforts of home for something much more frightening, something that requires them to go for weeks, months, maybe even forever, without seeing their families. Proud of them for defending America even though all the money in the world would not be nearly enough to compensate for some of their sacrifices.

Patriotism is picketers and protesters with signs on the sidewalk, braving cold and heat in an attempt to make America see the error of her ways. If she makes every attempt to stop them, and her children yell at and make fun of them, and even the weather seems to be against them, they will persevere, because they are confident that she will be improved by their efforts. They know eventually, America might just be grateful for what they've gone through on her behalf. But if she isn't, they will encourage their children and grandchildren to take their places someday, until finally, their goal has been accomplished.

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True patriotism is ordinary people, maybe the cleaning lady at the restaurant or the family down the street, giving America the best of themselves. They might make it into history books, and then again, they might not. But I am glad and proud to live in such a country, where so many everyday heroes love her so much that they will do *anything* to defend her and redeem her mistakes.