

## What is Patriotism to Me?

Patriotism is a valued ideal in America. It symbolizes the respect, love, and passion we have for this country. Patriotism is everywhere; it is in words, in writing, in movement, and in song. We love our country, and we want people to know it. That is why patriotism is valued.

Patriotism is honor. It is honor for your country, for your soldiers, and most importantly, it is honor for your home. We show patriotism all the time. When we pledge allegiance to our flag, that is patriotism. When we stand for a moment of silence, that is patriotism. When we sing our nation's song, that is patriotism. And we do it to honor and remember the men and women who died for their country, for they are true patriots. That is why patriotism is honor.

Patriotism is confidence. Confidence that we will come together as a nation, to face any task, to fight any fight, in order to keep our country and our freedom. No matter what happens, we will always be with one another. We will always have a connection with our home. This is how I know that we have one of the strongest nations in the world. We have bonded with each other, and our land. That is why patriotism is confidence.

Patriotism is chosen. We make a choice to honor those who have chosen to fight for our nation. We choose to pledge allegiance, we choose to stand for a moment of silence, we choose to sing our national anthem. All of these things that we do to show respect for our country are done by choice. We do these things to tell people "I am proud to be an American"; to show that we won't forget the men and women who died to protect our freedom, and those who continue to fight to defend our way of life. We choose to honor and show gratitude for this nation's founders, for their wisdom and vision in preserving our inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That is why patriotism is chosen.

This is what patriotism means to me.

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