

PATRIOTISM

What Makes America Different?

A man's country is not a certain area of land...it is a principle; and patriotism is loyalty to that principle.

—George William Custis



MOM *Links*
MAGAZINE
JUNE 2020

A top-down photograph of a white coffee cup filled with a frothy beverage, sitting on a light blue saucer. To the left of the cup, a blue pen and a blue pencil are resting on a white wooden surface. The background is a light-colored wooden plank wall.

A Note from Kimberly

Anyone who knows me knows I bleed Red, White, and Blue! You will always see a flag on my front porch. My family room décor resembles the fourth of July. My library is chocked full of books on American History and the Constitution from picture books to biographies; and my cell phone ring tone is Brooks & Dunn's "Only in America." But that isn't why I'm a patriot.

I've always been patriotic from 4th of July to pledging the flag, but it wasn't until September 11, 2001 that I became a patriot. My husband was stationed at the Pentagon on 9-11. Through a series of literal miracles, he came home safe that day. As I sat there that night with my family two thoughts came to me, 'how did we get here' and 'never again!'

I determined to do everything in my power to ensure my children remained free. That determination led me to an intense study of America's history, heritage and the Constitution. I read everything I could get my hands on and the more I read, the more I realized just how exceptional the United States is. I exude patriotism, not because I'm patriotic, but because now I understand what it means to be a patriot. I understand the cost of freedom. I know what it took to attain it and I am willing to do whatever it takes to preserve it.

As the quote on the front cover states, American patriotism isn't about a geographic region. It's about an idea, a revolutionary idea, the most amazing idea the world had ever seen. Patriotism is allegiance to that idea.

As you read through this month's MomLinks Magazine, I hope you will come to understand freedom as I have. Every article, quote, story and MomLinks group resource was carefully chosen to help you understand why America is so different and why we need to keep her different.

Now that we've all experienced a lack of freedom with the Covid-19 shutdown and the unconstitutional actions of elected officials, we have a much better understanding of what our Founding Families

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Start Your Own Group!

We have Cottage Meeting hostesses accross the country, investing in educating women in the principles of freedom.

Learn about the program at

momsforamerica.us/mom-links



experienced. Maybe now we can understand and appreciate all the sacrifices they made to leave us the legacy we've too often taken for granted. Maybe now we can gain a respect for the beautiful Constitutional Republic our Founding Fathers left us and commit to doing all we can to preserve it.

So, as the 4th of July approaches this year, let's remember what we're celebrating. It isn't about winning a war with England; it's about celebrating the greatest gift to humanity—freedom! May we ever keep it.

In Truth & Liberty,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly Fletcher'.

Kimberly Fletcher

President & Founder, Moms for America®

What Makes America Unique?

by Lisa Cummins

Today we are seeing history repeat itself in the form of Government interfering with citizens' rights to pursue their happiness, despite the challenges.

In Salem, Oregon, Glamour Salon owner Lindsay Graham opened her business, after being closed since March, to be able to provide for her family. Graham was fined \$14,000 by Oregon's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). They originally threatened her with \$70,000. On May 7th, the Child Protective Services came to Graham's home, searched her home, interviewed her 3-year-old child without the parents present. There is no information on what the charges were. Lindsay Graham could be defined as a Patriot!

Salon owner, Shelley Luther in Dallas, Texas, was jailed for not apologizing to the court ripping up the pink violation order., as well as being fined \$7,000. According to her attorney, Warren Norred, Luther's case is still on going and she could still face five more days of jail. Shelley Luther opened her salon so that she could feed her family and allow her independent salon stylists to make money for their families. She could

be defined as a Patriot.

On April 10, In Philadelphia, [Police officers forcibly removed a man from a city bus for not wearing a mask.](#) The officers were not wearing masks themselves.

The idea of being an American is the ability to look after oneself and taking on the consequences of our own choices. As Americans we support the idea that we are all sovereign unto ourselves and our freedom ends where our neighbor's freedom begins. Meaning we have no authority to tell our neighbor what to do or how to act, as long as harm is not done. What we are seeing from various State Governors around our country is what the colonists in the 1700's saw from the Crown in Great Britain. Governors do not have the authority to dictate to Americans and limit their pursuit of happiness when common sense and reason are also in play.

That was the fight that our Founding Fathers took on against King George and the biggest military in the world. This idea of an individual acting on their own conscience, with a restrained government that protected

The idea of the United States of America was and is for a moral people and virtuous people who believed in hard work, kindness, charity, and all the attributes that go along with Christian Characteristics.

God given rights, was going to be the greatest experiment that history had ever dared to take on.

So, what is it to be American?

Creed is that which is believed; any system of principles which are believed or professed.

Patriot – a person who loves his country and zealously supports and defends it and its interests.

Being a Patriot goes hand in hand with what being an American is all about. The beliefs of independence, rights bestowed by God to each and every one of us as individuals are upheld by the very documents that our Founding Fathers took painstaking efforts to research and debate, drawing out the best that God, through history could provide. A grand experiment based on the individual could succeed with the help of God if no obstacles were put in their path by tyranny.

The idea of the United States of America was and is for a moral people and virtuous people who believed in hard work, kindness, charity, and all the attributes that go along with Christian Characteristics.

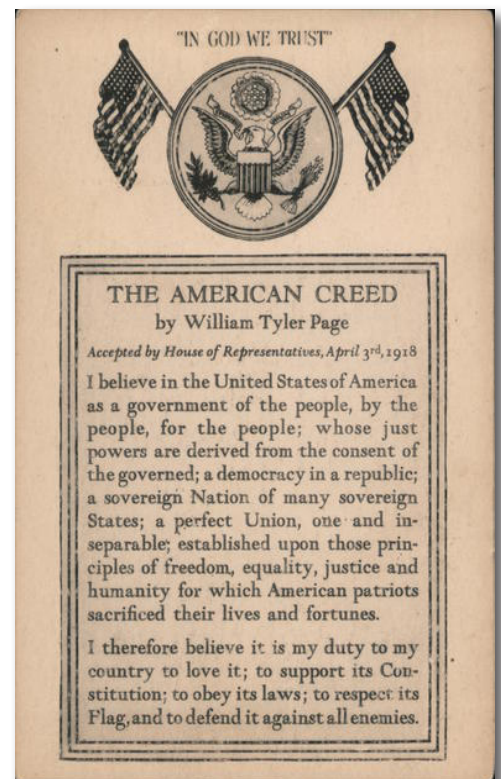
However, James Madison, father of the U.S. Constitution wrote "If men were angels, no government would be necessary. But men are not angels, so our government will always need oversight and accountability to make sure it doesn't abuse its power." The Constitution is for all citizens of our country. We are a Republic, ruled by laws, not by men. This Constitution supports the value of the individual, but as a group "We the People" are strong in support for each other. This is what being a Patriot is all about, standing for our country AND the Constitution together, so that the individual will not be suppressed.

In our history two creeds have brought this idea together perfectly. They are as follows: The American's Creed was read into the Congressional Record by by William Tyler Page:

"I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."

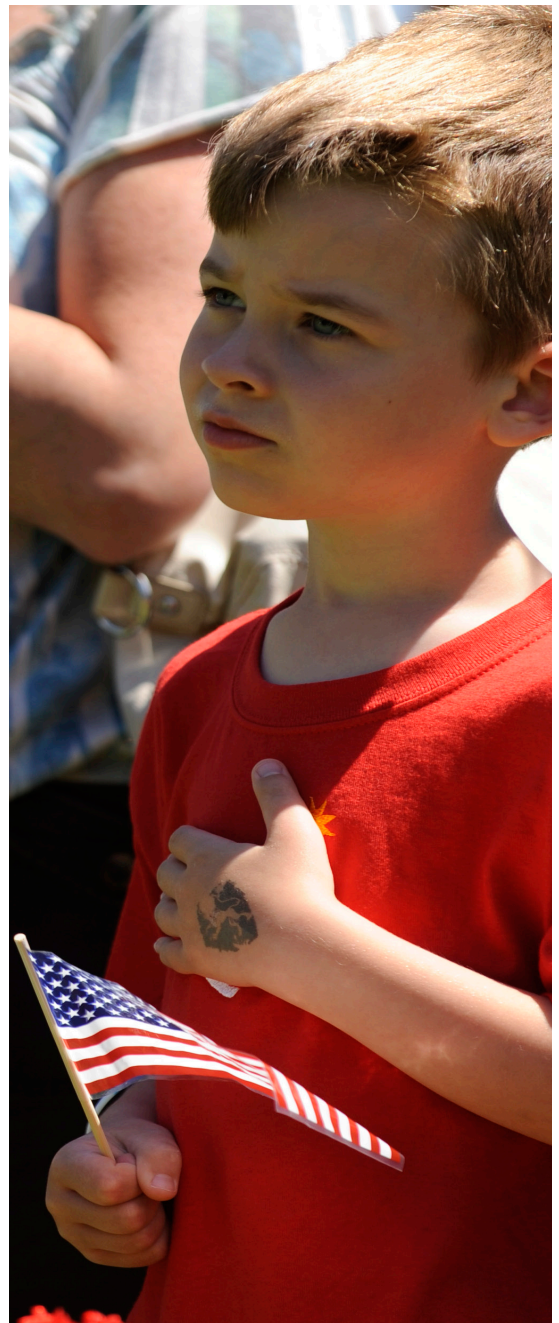
–Written 1917, accepted by the United States House of Representatives on April 3, 1918.



"An American's Creed," written by Dean Alfange, a political advisor to Presidents, originally appeared in "This Week Magazine," in the early 1950's. A shortened version was later printed in Reader's Digest in the October 1952 issue, as well as the January 1954 issue. Alfange was rewarded for his essay by They Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. He wrote:

"I do not choose to be a common man, it is my right to be uncommon ... if I can, I seek opportunity, not security. I do not wish to be kept a citizen. Humbled and dulled by having the State look after me. I want to take the calculated risk; to dream to build. To fail, to succeed. I refuse to barter incentive for a dole; I prefer the challenges of life to the guaranteed existence; the thrill of fulfillment, to the stale calm of Utopia. I will not trade freedom for beneficence nor my dignity for a handout. I will never cower before any master, nor bend to any threat. It is my heritage to stand erect. Proud and unafraid; to think and act for myself, to enjoy the benefit of my creations and to face the world boldly and say; This with God's help, I have done all. This is what it means to be an Entrepreneur."

The most wonderful thing about being a Patriot and having a creed, is that the two support each other. The law supports the people, and the people support the Supreme law of the land. There is not a conflict. They are in harmony, in unity with each other! Our deepest gratitude to our Founding Fathers and the Patriots throughout these last two centuries, led by God, should be passed on to our posterity. And for over 200 hundred years, America has been guided by the original Constitution, the longest standing form of government in history! It is this uniqueness that must be preserved one generation at a time!



Music is a powerful way to touch hearts and inspire patriotism. Here is a great song that answers the question "what makes America different" while igniting a spirit of patriotism.



Where The Stars And Stripes And Eagles Fly, Aaron Tippen



In case you didn't know...

You can change the world from your living room!

If you knew there was a program that would have a profound influence on your life, preserve America's history and heritage, promote the principles of liberty and build a foundation of freedom in your family and community, simply by inviting friends in your home, would you do it? The Cottage Meeting Project does just that.

The Cottage Meeting is our signature program, teaching women about our nation's foundation of liberty. Each of our foundational presentations lays the groundwork for understanding the principles that made our country great.

This summer, we are taking these Cottage Meetings to your living room couch with an all new VIRTUAL Cottage Meeting! You will get an up close look at the material and see a Cottage Meeting in action as our team walks through each of the presentations over the next few months.

**VIRTUAL Cottage Meetings will be held EVERY Wednesday*
for 12 weeks June 3 - August 19 at 10:00 AM Eastern
(*No Cottage Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 22)
[Register here](#) to join us for the next presentation**





Cottage Meeting

PREPERATION

In preparation to lead the Cottage Meeting Presentation, read through the presentation and consider reviewing the following:

- Principle 9 of “5000 Year Leap” (pages 131-139). Mark any sections you would like to share in your meeting. “5000 Year Leap” can be purchased through the [Moms for America® Webstore](#).
- Prior to the meeting have participants read “What Makes America Different?” (page 4)

MEETING OUTLINE

Welcome & Gathering

Should you desire you can start your meeting with a prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Show Video: [Bono—Speaking at Georgetown University](#) (cue to minute mark 8:40 to 10:20)

Hostess Presentation & Group Discussion

Q. What makes America different?

=> Reference highlighted sections of Principle 9 from “5000 Year Leap”

=>Read or have someone read “A Dream Called America” (Page 28)

Q. What is American Exceptionalism?

=> Reference or show [Dennis Prager video on American Exceptionalism](#)

Q. The quote in the heading states patriotism is loyalty to the idea. What is that idea?

=> Reference or show video The True Meaning of Patriotism produced by Foundation for Economic Education

=> Read or have someone read “What Makes America Unique” (page 4)

Q. How can we instill patriotism in the hearts of our children?

=> Read “Abigail Adams, A Patriot Mother” on next page.

=> Suggestions: Read Declaration of Independence on July 4th, talk about why we celebrate and what it is we are celebrating. Read stories of American patriots. Use Table Talk to spark dinner conversations.

Take Home Assignment:

Encourage those attending to share the “Symbols of Freedom” (page 16) with their children before the next meeting.

Announce date, time and location for next meeting. Close with prayer if desired.

Abigail Adams: A Mother Patriot

In 1775 as war raged around her Boston home, Abigail bravely cared for her young family alone while her husband was away, serving his country.

Her son, John Quincy, later spoke of this time as “the space of twelve months (in which) my mother, with her infant children, dwelt, liable every hour of the day and the night, to be butchered in cold blood.”¹

Many of the women of the Revolutionary era were Quakers and Christians who were adamantly opposed to war. And yet, they supported the battle because they deeply believed in the dream of America. John Quincy spoke of his mother’s influence. “My mother was the daughter of a Christian clergyman, and therefore bred in the faith of deliberate detestation of War...Yet, in that same spring and summer of 1775, she taught me to repeat daily, after the Lord’s Prayer, and before rising from bed, the Ode of Collins on the patriot warriors.”²

Abigail instilled a love of God and Country in her children. She stood courageously against the evils of her day and supported her husband all throughout his long life of public service. Abigail was a strong supporter of the battle for Independence. She frequently opened her home as a headquarters for the Minutemen. Her son, John Quincy, later spoke of this. There were “some dozen or two of pewter spoons,” he said, “and I well recollect going into the kitchen and seeing some of the men engaged in running those spoons into bullets for the use of

the troops! Do you wonder that a boy of seven years of age, who witnessed this scene, should be a patriot?”³

This is where patriotism comes from. It comes from a young child seeing their mother put her hand over her heart, from seeing their father carefully fold the flag, from witnessing their grandfather remove his hat when the flag goes by. They feel it, they see it. And when we share with them why we do it, why we feel America is so great—what the dream is all about, then we will be able to secure liberty because our children will know what it means to be American, and they will love her too.

The greatest act of patriotism a mother can perform will be within the walls of her own home!



1. *Memoirs of John Quincy Adams 1795 to 1848*, page 5

2. *Life of John Quincy Adams: the complete biography written in his lifetime*, 1856, page 323

3. *Life of John Quincy Adams: the complete biography written in his lifetime*, 1856, page 323



Momi U

WEEK 1:

The concept of American Exceptionalism is often misunderstood. Read “The Dream of America” (page 28) then read What Makes America Different (on page 4) Then watch the following videos in preparation for your MomiU discussion.

[The True Meaning of Patriotism](#) produced by Foundation for Economic Education

[American Exceptionalism](#)—Dennis Prager

Bono—Speaking at Georgetown University speaks of the “[American idea](#)” (watch clip at minute mark 8:40 to 10:20)

WEEK 2:

Do you ever wonder if what you do matters? When the world is trying to convince us motherhood is inconsequential and what we do the home is drudgery, its nice to be reminded now and then that just how important we are and how much influence we have on our nation. Here’s your reminder!

Read “Abigail Adams: A Patriot Mother” (page 9) and then read “One Mom on a Mission” (page 23) After you read the articles, watch the [Pledge of Allegiance Video](#) by Red Skelton. This is a great video to share with your children.



WEEK 3:

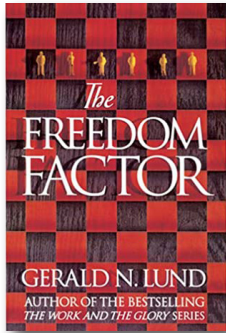
It is difficult, almost painful to see how quickly our country and culture are declining. So many youth and young adults are openly advocating for socialism and really believe the United States is to blame for all the ills of the world. Where is this coming from? How can we change it?

Read “Nothing to Love About America” (page 26) in preparation for your MomiU discussion. What are some things you can do to instill a love of liberty and American patriotism in the hearts of your children?

WEEK 4:

In preparation for the 4th of July, we’ve created a full feature on the Symbols of Freedom on page 16. Read through the Symbols of Freedom in preparation for your MomiU discussion and to get ideas on how to share the meaning of the celebration with your children.

Mom Reads



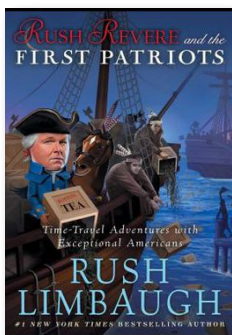
Book of the Month: Freedom Factor by Gerald N. Lund

"Well," Gorham said slowly, "You are now in an America that has never had the Constitution."

Nathaniel Gorham, an original Founding Father, visits young Bryce Sherwood, a rising aide to a Washington senator and a key player in an attempt to pass an amendment that would eliminate the checks and balances built into the Constitution. When Bryce refuses to change his position, Gorham transports him into a world where the Constitution was never ratified. His life-changing journey to an alternate universe helps him realize how precious our country's form of government is, and how much we take freedom for granted.

This is also a great family read-a-loud for 10 and up. If you have little ones, they can color or play while you read or, if you read in the evening, you can read to the older children after the little ones go to bed.

Get your copy [here](#).



Family Read-a-loud Rush Revere and the First Patriots by Rush Limbaugh

This engaging read-a-loud features a time traveling teacher who has adventures with exceptional Americans. Find it on [Amazon](#).

NOTE: See Family Lobby section for book recommendations for young children.

"It is man's most basic and sacred stewardship -- to serve as the guardian for his own behavior. And it's man's blackest and most fundamental evil to try and overthrow that stewardship."

- Gerald Lund



Family Lobby

Family Lobby is the MomLinks group that engages the entire family and provides stories and projects for families to read and do throughout the month to promote the monthly theme. Once a month, families can join together in a 3 hour “Activity Day” to engage in projects and fun activities in a group setting. Family Lobby is organized by stories and activities individual families can participate in all month long, followed by an Activity Day Plan in co-op type setting where multiple families can share what they’ve learned and enjoy a fun day of activities, stories and games highlighting the monthly theme.

Monthly Theme Activities (Things families can do at home all month long)

We encourage families to read the MomReads book selections together throughout the month. Freedom Factor is for preteens and adults. Rush Revere is great for the entire family.

Book of the Month: Freedom Factor by Gerald N. Lund (see description in MomReads)

Read-Aloud Book of the Month: Rush Revere and the First Patriots by Rush Limbaugh (see description in MomReads)

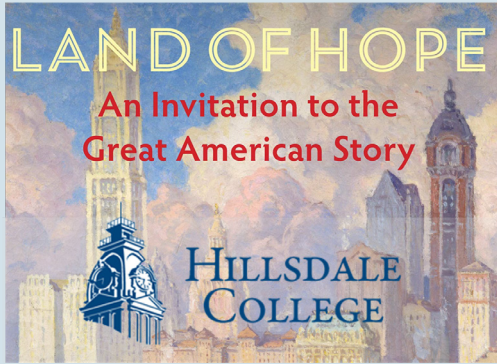
Recommended Books

These are great picture books to go along with this months theme. Most of them can be found in your public library. They’re also available on Amazon. They’re great books to have your family library and read over and over again.

- The Flag We Love by Pam Munoz Ryan
- What Does It Mean to Be an American? By Rana DiOrio @ Elad Yoran
- America Is by Louise Borden
- The Night Before the 4th of July by Natasha Wing
- The 4th of July Story by Alice Dalgliesh
- I’m Your Flag, Please Treat Me Right by Julia Cook
- America, A Patriotic Primer by Lynne Cheney
- Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes Book
- Phoebe the Spy by Judith Griffin
- Toliver’s Secret by Esther Brady

Movies:

- Johnny Tremain the Movie (Available to watch on [Amazon](#))
- The Patriot (Watch on [Amazon](#), Parental Guidance Suggested)



Invite Your Teenagers Into the Story

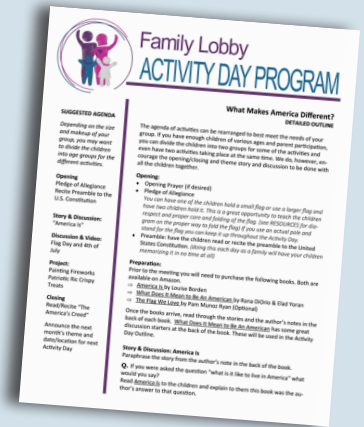
Hillsdale College has produced a fantastic video series “The Great American Story: Land of Hope.” It is great for middle school and teens and parents! You can sign up for the series at the following link.

Sign up here =>

ACTIVITY DAY

Take some time over the summer to play, and laugh, and learn with your kids! We’ve got Activity Day all laid out for you so you can focus on making the day special. Get together with family friends for Patriotic crafts and treats, along with a lesson all about patriotism and good citizenship.

Download you Activity Day Lesson Plan [here](#).



Painting Fireworks



Patriotic Rice Crispy Treats

a new twist on an old favorite

Moms for America



Table Talk is a GREAT way to nurture a love of liberty through family discussions at the dinner table. Here's a collection of stories, quotes and questions to spark conversation on this month's theme. In addition to the conversation sparks below, you can use any of the stories, quotes, and articles in this issue to read, share and discuss over dinner and keep the conversation going all month long.

Day 1 Quote

There are those, I know, who will say that the liberation of humanity, the freedom of man and mind, is nothing but a dream. They are right. It is the American dream. ~Archibald MacLeish

What is the American Dream? What does the American mean to you? What is your dream and how to you plan to achieve it? Note: In America "What do you want to be when you grow up," means whatever it is, you can!

Day 2 Share A Story

Read "A Dream Called America" on page 28

Day 3 Video & Discussion

Watch the video "[America, Why I Love Her](#)" by John Wayne. You can view it right on your phone or ipad during dinner. Discuss as a family how you can show patriotism through your actions.

Day 4 Share A Story

Abigail Adams: A Patriot Mother (page 9)

Day 5 Question & Discussion

What is American Exceptionalism? View or listen to the songs "[Only In America](#)" and "[Where the Stars And Stripes And Eagles Fly](#)" and discuss what you think the songs say about what makes America different, unique, and exceptional in the world.

Day 6 Share A Story

One Mom on A Mission (page 23) Discuss as a family how you can show patriotism through your actions.

*"All great change in America
begins at the dinner table."
Ronald Reagan*



“Freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us by other men, but a right that belongs to us by the laws of God and nature.” Benjamin Franklin

“What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as Freedom should not be highly rated.” ~Thomas Paine

“Your love of liberty — your respect for the laws — your habits of industry — and your practice of the moral and religious obligations, are the strongest claims to national and individual happiness.” ~George Washington

“I will not believe our labors are lost. I shall not die without a hope that light and liberty are on a steady advance.” ~Thomas Jefferson

“There is a certain enthusiasm in liberty that makes human nature rise above itself, in acts of bravery and heroism.” -Alexander Hamilton

“The liberties of our country, the freedom of our civil constitution, are worth defending against all hazards: And it is our duty to defend them against all attacks.” -Samuel Adams

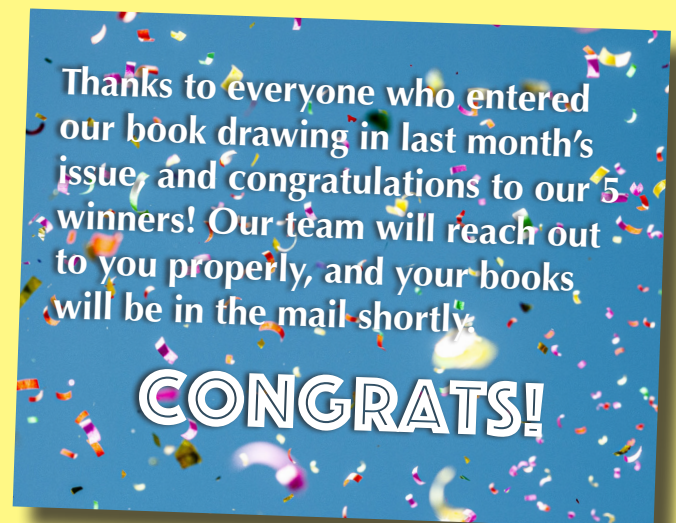
“The policy of American government is to leave its citizens free, neither restraining them nor aiding them in their pursuits.” -Thomas Jefferson

Giveaway!



Enter to win this beautiful table top book entitled “The Miracle of America: Birth of a Nation.” You will absolutely love the powerful artwork and inspiring stories in this book!

Email “patriot” to moms@momsforamerica.us to enter.





Symbols of FREEDOM

"Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair; the rest is in the hands of God."

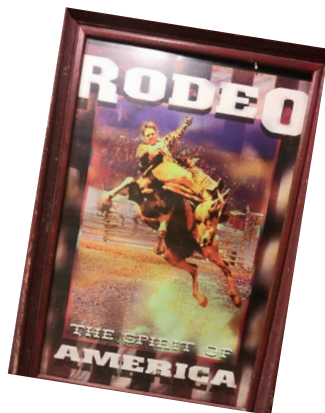
~George Washington

Article by Lisa Cummins, Director of Education for Moms for America

What do you think of when considering symbols that represent America? The American Flag, the Bald Eagle? What about apple pies, cowboys, the rodeo, corn fields, church buildings everywhere, statues of pioneers, the Brooklyn and Golden Gate Bridges?

America's symbols have all signified sacrifice, strength, courage, adventure, conquering hardship, taming the wild, and being held responsible only to God. These symbols give the idea that every individual that set their foot upon this land is free to think for themselves and live the life they dreamed for them and their family. The Spirit of America lives in these symbols and they are there to remind us of who we are, where we came from, and why it is imperative we preserve our legacy of liberty.

As Independence Day approaches, this is a great opportunity to share these symbols of freedom with your children so when the fireworks start bursting in the sky, they'll know and understand what it is we're celebrating.



The Rattlesnake



The first ever popular symbol of America was the Great American Rattlesnake! It first appeared in Benjamin Franklin's "The Pennsylvania Gazette," in May of 1754. The purposely broken up snake symbolized a colony, with the message that if the colonies did not unite, they would die in pieces. "Join, or Die," was the ultimatum during the French and Indian War.

It would not be the last time that Franklin referred to the rattlesnake. Today, considered controversial and grossly mischaracterized is the Gadsden Flag!

In 1775, former Sons of Liberty member, known among friends as "the Sam Adams of the South," and Colonel in the Continental Army, Christopher Gadsden, presented a copy of this flag to the

Continental Congress. Benjamin Franklin had helped design the rattlesnake symbol. The flag was originally a symbolic one. It first originated in the fall of 1775, the Continental Navy had been commissioned their first mission; to aid five companies of Marines, in stopping two British ships loaded with guns and gunpowder, coming to Philadelphia. A few of the Marines on board carried with them yellow drums, painted yellow with a fierce rattlesnake, ready to strike, with 13 rattles and the words "Don't Tread on Me." Gadsden took that idea and put in a flag for the American Navy. As recorded in the South Carolina congressional journals:

"Col. Gadsden presented to the Congress an elegant standard, such as is to be used by the commander in chief of the American navy; being a yellow field, with a lively representation of a rattle-snake in the middle, in the attitude of going to strike, and these words underneath, "Don't Tread on Me!"

The Symbolism was written by Franklin:

1. The Rattlesnake is found in other quarters of the world besides America
2. The rattlesnake also has sharp eyes, and may therefore be esteemed an emblem of vigilance
3. She never begins an attack, nor, when once engaged, ever surrenders: She is therefore an emblem of magnanimity and true courage

The Liberty Bell

The Liberty Bell is *"a very significant symbol for the entire democratic world."*

– Nelson Mandela, Philadelphia Inquirer, July 4, 1993

The Liberty Bell was created in 1751 for the bell tower of the Pennsylvania State House, now known today as Independence Hall. It was shipped from the Whitechapel Foundry in London, England, but upon the first test ring, it cracked. Metalworkers John Pass and John Stow melted down the original bell and recast the bell that is displayed today. No record is found as to how or when the Liberty bell developed the crack, however the bell was used for over 90 years. A repairing of the bell to celebrate George Washington's birth, was to widen the crack.

Obviously, the repair was not successful, and second crack developed. That second crack retired the bell forever, and it has not rung since.

4. The rattle equals the number of the Colonies united in America.

Why the Rattlesnake at all? Benjamin Franklin made his thoughts more clear in his comparison of the snake to America, in a letter published in the Pennsylvania Journal, on December 27, 1775, entitled "An American Guesser:"

I recollected that her eye excelled in brightness, that of any other animal, that she has no eye-lids. She may therefore be esteemed an emblem of vigilance. She never begins an attack, nor when once engaged, ever surrenders: She is there an emblem of magnanimity and true courage. As if anxious to prevent all pretensions of quarreling with her, the weapons with which nature has furnished her, she conceals in the roof of her mouth, so that, to those who are unacquainted with her, she appears to be a most defenseless animal; and even when those weapons are shown and extended for her defense, they appear weak and contemptible; but their wounds however small, are decisive and fatal. Conscious of this, she never wounds 'till she has generously given notice, even to her enemy, and caution him against the danger of treading on her.

You can read the full letter on the Rattlesnake of America, [here](#).



The inscription on the Liberty Bell is taken from the King James Bible: “Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land unto All the Inhabitants thereof.” Leviticus 25:10. The message went unnoticed during the Revolutionary War, as a rallying cry, however the inscription was adopted by abolitionists praying to end slavery. It was thanks to the Anti-Slavery Record that the bell was first referred to as The Liberty Bell, in 1835. Years later, the name was formally adopted, as Americans came to read about the bell in a fictional story “Ring, Grandfather, Ring.” By George Lippard in 1847. The Liberty Bell became a symbol of the pride in America. It reminded Americans that they stood together for independence, out of many, one! There is no evidence that the bell rang on that providential day of July 4, 1776, but likely, it did!

*And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and **proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof:** it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.*

– Leviticus 25:10

The bolded portion of the quotation is inscribed on the Liberty Bell.

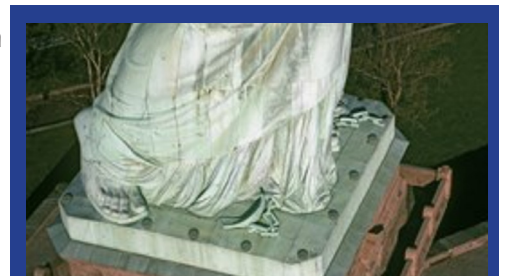


The Statue of Liberty



The idea of a statue off the shores of New York City, came from a gentleman by the name of Edouard de Laboulaye, who was U. S. Constitution expert, an abolitionist, and a French Philosopher. Laboulaye wanted the statue to be a gift from France to honor the preservation of freedom and democracy, as well as recognition of the work done by former President Abraham Lincoln. The French sculptor Auguste Bartholdi supported Laboulaye’s vision and was selected to be the sculptor the monument. The original name of the monument was “Liberty Enlightening the World,” and it was to be an international symbol of liberty, justice, and democracy. It was Laboulaye’s hope that this gift from France, would inspire the French people to pursue the same ideals in a peaceful and lawful uprising.

What is completely missed on the Statue of Liberty is that at the base of her right foot, there is a broken shackle and chain. The chain link is hidden under her gown and is seen again on her left foot. The end link is also broken. The idea of freedom from oppression and slavery was only in its 100-year infancy. America still had a long way to go in promoting its primary message of liberty, justice, and equal rights towards all, but this statue signified that America was on the right path!



The Statue of Liberty’s feet shown with broken shackles and chains, National Park Service

President, and former New York State Governor, Grover Cleveland accepted the statue from France, on a cold, rainy night on October 28th, 1886. Fireworks had been planned but due to the weather, the festivities were postponed. The lighting of the Statue had problems as well. Lady Liberty was to be the official lighthouse for New York Harbor. On November 1st, the New York skyline was lit up without any problems! The New York Times wrote "Land and sea alike were teeming with glories. The vast fleet added not a little to the scene – the distant city with its million lights and flame-tipped spires was a sight to be remembered itself."

"When the last rust of rockets from the island had scattered their showering gold and the wonted darkness settled again, the great figure grew brighter and huger and gleamed ghostly but beautiful, the new Anadyomene, Liberty rising from the sea."

The poem engraved at the base of the Statue of Liberty was written by Emma Lazarus in 1883. Entitled "The New Colossus," the poem was part of a sonnet to raise money for building the base of the statue. She was convinced by a friend, that her poem would inspire immigrants and welcome them to America. Most of America believes that the poem meant to say that everyone could come. That is not correct.

The first part of the poem refers to the Colossus of Rhodes statue of the Greek sun god Helios. It was considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, before it was destroyed 280 B.C. in an earthquake. The reason for the statue was not only to honor Helios as a god of light, but to celebrate the Rhodians defending their island against an attack by Macedonia. As the Colossus of Rhodes statue was a symbol of light and strength, Lady Liberty, or 'the new Colossus,' was and is a symbol of light welcoming of those that hope for liberty, tired of the oppressive tyranny they experienced in other lands.



The New Colossus

By Emma Lazarus, 1883



This inscription on the Statue of Liberty honors the work that Emma Lazarus wrote for the statue

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glowed world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.

"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

The Statue of Responsibility

“Freedom is in danger of degenerating into mere arbitrariness unless it is lived in terms of responsibility. That is why I recommend that the Statue of Liberty on the East Coast be supplemented by the Statue of Responsibility on the West Coast.”

~ Dr. Viktor E. Frankl, author of *Mans Search for Meaning*.



Freedom plus morality equals Liberty. That moral compass is what teaches the individual about his and her responsibility in preserving that freedom, or it could be taken.

In 2005 Dr. Stephen R Covey approached World renown sculptor, Gary Lee Price, and asked him to create a 300+ foot Statue of Responsibility, that was inspired by Dr. Frankl. According to the official website, the monument is to balance iconic principles that are represented by the Statue of Liberty. Currently the statue is to open in the Spring of 2023, off the West Coast across from a major U.S. city. Most of the funding has come from private contributions to the \$195 million project.

A representative from The Statue of Responsibility project provided Moms for America this comment:

“The Statue of Responsibility is the vision of Dr. Viktor E. Frankl, holocaust survivor, and author of *“Mans Search for Meaning”*. In his book, he states that for America to maintain her freedoms she must “bookend” her Statue of Liberty on the East Coast with a Statue of Responsibility on the West Coast.

World renown sculptor, Gary Lee Price has been commissioned to do just that. The image that Gary created of two wrists clasped together has been approved by Viktor’s widow, Dr. Eleanor Frankl.

The Statue of Responsibility Team is currently in the process of locating the land for the 305ft monument and campus. The campus will also be home to several educational and motivational endeavors as well. The Viktor Frankl Institute of America will also have a home here.

Join us in this history making endeavor.

It’s more than a Monument, it’s a Movement!

Just as the Statue of Liberty is an international symbol of Liberty and America, The Statue of Responsibility will also serve as an international icon of responsibility, and a symbol of virtue. Freedom is our responsibility and we must not take it for granted.

www.statueofresponsibility.com



(Photos provided curtesy of The Statue of Responsibility Project)

The American Bald Eagle



After the signing of the Declaration of Independence, on July 4, 1776, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams were asked to design the official seal for the United States. Out of all their endeavors together, this assignment was not successful. A series of committee's tackled the design and failed, and it wasn't until the 4th attempt that the Secretary of Continental Congress, Charles Thompson, combined all the previous efforts and came up with what we use today as the official United States of America Seal.

Thompson took the idea of a smaller eagle, and made it look like the grand Bald Eagle we see today. The American Bald Eagle is only found in North America. They are strong, independent, majestic, bold, and faithful. To Americans they are a symbol of strength and perseverance.

The Great Seal

The earliest source of the motto "E Pluribus Unum" (Latin for "Out of Many One") was printed at the bottom of a monthly pamphlet entitled *The Gentleman's Magazine*, in London in 1731. Next to it was a graphic of a hand holding a bouquet of different wildflowers, signifying that unity and individuality could coexist. Each flower was unique with its own properties that God had given it. But together they were strong, despite their differences. The opposite would be a mixture in a melting pot, where everyone blended together with no one standing out. The motto was very familiar to the Founders when it was presented by Charles Thomson in 1782 for the final Great Seal design.



In the right talon, the Eagle is holding an olive branch. The Eagle was purposely facing the olive branch to symbolize the power of peace. In the left talon the eagle holds 13 arrows, symbolizing the power of war. The American Eagle represents liberty and freedom.

The American Flag

"When we honor our flag we honor what we stand for as a Nation -- freedom, equality, justice, and hope." ~Ronald Reagan

The American Flag is the ultimate symbol of freedom. General George Washington, recognizing the American people needed one banner they could unite under, determined to have one commissioned.

Several flag designs with 13 stripes were used in 1776 and 1777, but on June 14, 1777, Congress established an official design. The act stated, "That the Flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." General Washington explained it this way: "We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country,



separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty.”

Once adopted and American independence was won, the flag came to symbol of divine intervention, public virtue and sacrifice. The Red Stripes remind us of the blood that was sacrificed in our behalf—a call to patriotism and love of country. The White Stripes remind us that to be able to live under a system of limited government, we personally need to live a moral and upright life. The Blue Background with white stars remind us of Heaven's guiding and protective Hand and that it is to God that we look for certain inalienable rights.

Author, Candace Salima, shared her passion for the American Flag and everything it stands for.

“When I see the American flag rippling in the breeze against the majesty of Rocky Mountains a thrill of patriotism runs through my soul. How I love America and all that she offers to her citizens and the world. We must protect her against all who would destroy her as an ensign to the world of freedom, liberty, and justice. May God bless America and the efforts of her citizens to restore her.”

Candace passed away in 2017 but her passion lives on in all the hearts she touched and lives she changed. It is that kind of love and passion we, as mothers and grandmothers, have the power to instill in the hearts of our children. As the famous saying goes, “Mothers write on the hearts of their children things the world can never erase.” So let’s start writing freedom on their little hearts this year!

“The American flag doesn't give her glory on a peaceful, calm day. It's when the winds pick up and become boisterous, do we see her strength. When she unfolds her hand, and shows her frayed fingers, where we see the stretch of red-blood lines of man that fought for this land. The purity of white stripes that strips our sins, and the stars of Abraham's covenant, broad in a midnight blue sky. The rights our forefathers established. As it waves high in the currents of freedom, where the Torch of Liberty shines over the sea, does she give meaning to unity. When we strive as one nation, or when it drops half-mast, to a fallen soldier.” Anthony Liccione

Take Your Hat Off When the Flag Goes By



Want a great way to teach your children about the Constitution? [This musical CD and book set is it!](#) Includes songs such as Take Your Hat Off When the Flag Goes By, I Love America, and more. CD comes with large, paperback, full-color, 9x11 inch picture book complete with all the lyrics to the songs. The book has a quiz section in the back to see how much the children really learned. You’ll be surprised how much information sticks when you learn it to music. Suggested for ages 5-12, but it’s an exciting and easy way to learn for the whole family.

John Wayne: Why I Love America!
In the 1970’s John Wayne gave two incredibly patriotic presentations. One was the Pledge of Allegiance where he tells what the Stars & Stripes mean to him and the second was to America the Beautiful where he shares why he loves America. These great videos to watch to celebrate freedom this 4th of July.



America, Why I love her

The Pledge of Allegiance



One Mom on A Mission

By: Vivian D Brown

As a mom, it has always been my belief, the most important job we have is to raise good citizens. So, when it came time to find a new school for my fourth-grade daughter, I choose a school where their mission is to prepare scholars "for success in college and citizenship."

When I received the call that my daughter was accepted. My husband and I were very excited.

A week or so later I had dropped off school supplies for teachers, and in the front office something caught my eye that I just could not believe. It just was not possible... how could this happen?

In plain sight, sitting on top of a bookcase were the United States and Texas flags haphazardly thrown on the top shelf. How could anyone do this to our flags? Patriots like our Founding Father's sacrificed everything for our United States Flag. I was so shocked and upset that I could not even bring myself to say anything. I hoped this was a one-time thing... Sadly, it was not. I wondered how you can teach citizenship if you don't respect the flag?

Not only was this upsetting to me but also to my daughter. She would come home every day and say "mom, we didn't pledge to the flag". They did not even have a flag in the classroom. I have always taught my daughter to respect our heritage, be a proud American and stand for the flag.

What kind of mother would I be if I did not act?

So, about the fourth time I went to the school and saw the bundle on the bookcase I finally spoke up. I asked the receptionist “who is in charge of the proper care and display of flags?” She told me the janitor was. Fortunately, (or not so fortunate for him) I was able to ask him directly about it.

“Sir, do you realize that men and women gave their blood and paid the ultimate sacrifice for our flag? Those flags are to be revered, respected. They are not pieces of cloth you just throw around. What kind of message are you sending students and families, when one of the first things they see is blatant disrespect for who we are as a nation?”

He told me, “ma’am I’ve served my country.” I replied, “then shame on you sir, shame on you! You must understand firsthand the sacrifices and what it means. You should know better.”

I knew my daughter and the other students needed to learn the values, meaning and heroism it represents but my message seemed to go on deaf ears. The flags continued to lay there, and no flag was even flown at the school. What was I going to do? I could not drop it. How could I?

One day I was having lunch with Congressman Lamar Smith (TX21). I explained my story to him, and he was dismayed. He told me, “Vivian, call my office and I will send the school a U.S. Flag flown over our Nation’s Capital.” I was a bit hesitant and told him, I do not know if that is a good idea, I do not want them to disrespect it. He said, well maybe it will make an impression that they need to do something. So, I called his office and they immediately dispatched U.S. Flag to the school. Weeks went by and still no flag.

I was not to be deterred. I thought, there must be something I could do. I needed to look for help. I heard my friend State Senator Donna Campbell had put forth a bill in the education committee that would give charter schools \$1000 per student. I immediately thought that this is what I am looking for.

I went to the Capitol in Austin and met with her. I explained the situation and asked her if there was a way to tie funding to them respecting the flag.” She told me that she likes to keep her bills clean and would not want to do that. Still wanting to help, she told me she would also send a Texas Flag to the school.

Time went by and still no flag. I was just so disappointed, so was my daughter. She too, decided to act. The students practicing for the mandatory state testing were given a writing prompt “A day at the circus.” When I picked her up from school that

day, she told me mom, “Mom, who cares about the circus?” I wanted to write about something important, like how they were disrespecting Our Flag.”

As a mother who prides herself on what it means to be an American Patriot and to respect our Nation’s Heritage, I was beaming with pride. The school was not impressed. She did not receive a passing grade, but it did not matter to her or to me. She saw injustice and chose to respond to it – no matter the consequences. Isn’t that what we want for our children; to raise them so they have the confidence to use their voice, be a good citizen, to be a positive influence on their peers and in the community?

Once again, I had to go to the school, which was something I began to dread. I was greeted by the janitor. He said, “Mrs. Brown I have something to show you.”

The school purchased two display boxes to hold each flag along with the certificates from the Capitol Architect’s that the flags were indeed flown over the United States and Texas Capitol’s. He then said, the school decided to buy a brand new 6’x8’ U.S. Flag to fly over the school. And that’s just what they did. In fact, the school went on to install lights on the flag poles so both flags would be illuminated at night. I was later told; they adopted this policy across all their schools. I had done it!

Fast forward to the end of the Texas legislative session. I came across S.B. No. 1200, it was introduced by Senator Donna Campbell. The bill title was “Relating to guidelines for the proper care and display of the United States and Texas Flags by public schools” Was I reading that right? Was I responsible for getting a bill written?

I contacted her office to thank them, the Senator had written and filed the bill the week following our conversation; and although it did not make it out of committee (bills rarely do the first time). I learned it was one of her biggest disappointments when that bill was stalled. I, however, was not disappointed. On the contrary. I wanted the school to respect our Flag, I wanted my daughter to see her mom make a stand. I wanted her to see what it meant to do everything within the realm of possibility to make a difference to right a wrong. I had succeeded!

As I pass by the school every day; it warms my heart to see our glorious “banner wave” symbolizing the land of the free. The home of the brave.

As I said at the beginning, the most important job I have as a mother is to raise a good citizen. It was my obligation to demonstrate what that means. Even when something is challenging it is worth the fight. Never give up! Stand up for what you believe! Even if you are the only one. One person, one mom...can make a difference.

Nothing to Love About America?

By Marlene Peterson

An assignment was given to a Jr. High school class in Virginia in 2010—the students were to write about why they loved America. After the papers were turned in and graded, the teacher regretfully shared with the class that not one of them had come up with a single reason to love America.

What good is a balanced budget, fresh faces in Congress and getting “back” to the Constitution if the next generation doesn’t love America and value freedom?

We, at Moms for America®, believe a love of liberty is best grown in the home. We suggest a simple solution: Starting tonight, put down the book, look your kids or grandkids in the eyes and tell them a story from your heart about why YOU love America. Pajamas are recommended. It’s a formula that has worked throughout history and around the globe.

However, if you plan on stopping by your public library to pick up some American History books to take your stories from, you may want to reconsider.

The story our children are being told about America is not the same story children were told a hundred years ago. There are three key elements that are missing from today’s stories:

- 1. An acknowledgment that our system of government is the best system of government the world has ever seen and that it demands our diligence in understanding and maintaining it.*
- 2. The belief that freedom is a rare gift that can only be held onto by a moral and religious people who comprehend liberty in law.*
- 3. The idea that our nation was raised up by the Hand of Divine Providence and that our inalienable rights come from God.*

If you plan on stopping by your public library to pick up some American History books to take your stories from, you may want to reconsider.



These three elements that are missing today, are the very three pillars the school children of yesterday were taught our Republic rested upon—our patriotism, our character and our faith. They were told they would be reminded of them every time they looked at our flag.

The red stripes reminded them of the blood that was sacrificed for them and was a call to patriotism in defending their Constitution and freedom.

The white stripes stood for virtue and purity. They understood a limited government only worked among a people who understood the personal responsibilities of freedom and were capable of self-governance.

The white stars on a blue background reminded them of Heaven's guiding and protective hand.

These wonderful writers of yesterday were so anxious to instill these principles in the hearts of the next generation, that they filled their stories with examples and reminders.

From time to time, I plant myself on the floor of a public library in front of the American History shelf and look for these principles in our modern books. I'm not finding them. On my most recent visit, I finally found a reference to Columbus' faith. But his claim that he felt inspiration from heaven is attributed to his malarial delirium. Thomas Jefferson is portrayed as a hypocritical slaveholder, but, hey, we're all human, aren't we? And the story of the genocide of the Native American is paraded over and over again. Not much to love.

It appears our three pillars are gradually being replaced with just one—money. Plymouth and its seekers of religious freedom is being replaced with Jamestown and its seekers of economic prosperity as the root of our nation. Most everyone seems to think that if the economy turns around, America will be just fine. But freedom is not the product of a strong economy. Rather,

a strong economy is the product of freedom and freedom rests on the three pillars that are being systematically removed. What if that one pillar everyone is holding up—our economy—gives way? What then will hold us up?

Even Joseph Stalin recognized the secret of America's strength: "America is like a healthy body and its resistance is threefold: its Patriotism, its Morality, and its Spiritualism."

How "healthy" is America's body today?

We call on the mothers and fathers and grandparents of America to rebuild these three pillars. And the way we rebuild them is through the stories we share heart-to-heart with our children and grandchildren. It is not in the classroom that we will restore America's liberty but in our homes.

Libraries of Hope has been gathering the stories of yesterday and reprinting them so they can be preserved in homes all across America. You can find them at librariesofhope.com





Photo Credit: Prayitno

The Dream Called America By Kimberly Fletcher

There is a place in Hawaii called the Kualoa Ranch. The ranch rests on 4,000 acres of some of the most breathtaking scenery on the island of Oahu. Visions of God's handiwork can be seen in the dense rain forests, open valleys, beautiful white beaches, and majestic mountains that characterize the property. Though you wouldn't know it, you have most probably seen the ranch as it has been the backdrop of many television shows and films. If you have seen Jurassic Park, Windtalkers, Pearl Harbor, Godzilla, Tears of the Sun, or 50 First Dates then you have—through moving pictures—been to the Kualoa Ranch.

While the beauty and grandeur of the ranch is breathtaking, it is actually the history of the ranch that I find most fascinating. Kualoa Ranch was established in

1850 when King Kamehameha III sold the land to a missionary doctor, who had served as his personal advisor.

For over a hundred years the ranch sustained itself in agriculture and cattle, but as time passed, the income from these sources was no longer sustainable so the family diversified the ranch and entered the tourism industry. Now people from all over the world come to see this beautiful land and visit the places where Kings were trained and where films are made. You can still see remnants of the many movies that have been filmed there including the famous entrance gate to Jurassic Park.

You never know who you might see at the ranch. Just a few months ago, George Clooney was at the ranch scouting

locations for a film he is working on. And all the while, the ranch continues to operate as a working cattle ranch.

You and I wouldn't see anything unusual or particularly unique about that. After all, businesses diversify all the time. If your business is no longer making money diversification is automatically a consideration. However, a few months ago, a group of businessmen from Japan came to visit the ranch. After hearing the history of the ranch and how they had successfully diversified into the tourism and film industries, the men were astonished. They couldn't understand how you could just change the direction of your company like that. How do you go from being a cattle ranch to being a hub for tourism and movies?

Of course the tour guide didn't understand why the whole thing shocked these businessmen so much. But that is because he, like so many Americans, didn't realize just how uniquely American something as simple as diversification is. In Japan if you own a car industry, you always manufacture and sell cars. If business is slow you give a big pep talk to your sells and manufacturing team to try and pick up sells. You don't just decide to start selling infant car seats or build an amusement park. But people in America do it every day. Baseball players become car dealers, pharmacists become realtors, paper goods manufacturers add household cleaners to their product line. It's just another day in the life of an American. One day you're a car salesman and the next day you're a nurse.

There is a uniqueness about America that has become so commonplace to us, we don't even recognize just how unique we are.

My son Jordan spent a couple years in Idaho and while there he met a man from Sweden who owned a bakery. Jordan said the man was completely perplexed

at how people in America could just become whatever they wanted. "I studied and apprenticed for fifteen years before I could become a baker," the man said. "Here in America people just wake up and say 'I'm going to be a baker today'. And then they do it."

There is a uniqueness about America that has become so commonplace to us, we don't even recognize just how unique we are. I have talked to many immigrants from other countries who have shared their feelings and impressions about America with me. I've heard them say everything from, "there is just no place like it on earth" to "you just don't know how good it is".

Kitty Werthmann, the current president of Eagle Forum in South Dakota, was born in Austria and raised in Austria. She spent seven years of her life under Hitler's rule and five years under Russian Communist rule. In 1950 Kitty came to America. The first thing she saw when the ship came into harbor was the Statue of Liberty—an image she has never forgotten.

Kitty spent her first night in America in a hotel. The next morning she asked the concierge for directions to the nearest police station which he told her was within walking distance. Kitty walked to the police station and told the desk sergeant she wanted to register. The desk sergeant asked what she was talking about. Kitty

repeated herself and saying, "I want to register so you will know where I am. How will you find me," she asked, "if I break the law?"

"Don't worry Lady," the sergeant replied, "if you break the law we'll find you, now get out of here!"

But that is because he, like so many Americans, didn't realize just how uniquely American something as simple as diversification is.

Kitty walked outside quite perplexed. She looked up at the clear blue sky and puzzled, "What kind of country is this?" And then she realized. "All of a sudden," she said, "it dawned on me. It's freedom!"

And that is the beauty of America. It is what people come from countries all over the world for. They know that America is the land of opportunity. They know it is a place of peace where they are free. And when they come and experience that freedom for the first time it is something they treasure forever because they know, it isn't just a dream. It's real.

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