

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, to provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and safety to ourselves and our prosperity, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States of America."

Preamble of the Constitution of the United States

1787

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon the continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

"Gettysburg Address" Abraham Lincoln

1863

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its decrees. We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal."

"I Have a Dream" Martin Luther King Jr.

1963

These are the voices of America, they made to stand up and tell the truth about the rights they are given as Americans.

But what if all people who took a stand to state what they believe did so just because they wanted to be known for what they have achieved? Would that be considered responsible? Absolutely not! Even though they were doing what is right, they would be doing it for the benefit of themselves.

And how many of those that we have forgotten? Is it possible that some of those people have had more influence on us than the names we have grown up with? And if so would that be considered responsible for the people with popularity to take those influences and ideas and use them with their great authority?

To tell you the truth, I'm not sure that anyone has asked those questions, but I think it's time someone did as part of our patriotic duty.

The people of the United States take great pride in our nation. We can pull together in great strength when there are times we need to depend on each other. For example, after the unforgettable tragedies of September 11, 2001, nothing could take away the pain and sorrow our country was feeling that day and the days to follow.

But if you took a step backwards and looked at the big picture, you would see amazing things. People were looking at each other differently.

Enemies were becoming friends, and suddenly it didn't matter what race you were, or what religion you practiced. At that time we were all united as one. And that becoming united is the biggest responsibility one could take on.

Unfortunately the people in the United States are at times very stubborn. If they have "5" they want "10". If they have fast they want faster. Our nation is becoming a very fast-paced place, which could be

a very good thing, or not so good, I just hope we don't lose the true values that have been passed down from one generation to another.

With this I believe we understand what we could be missing to our rights as Americans. We must let our government know about it in any means necessary.

As you read the beginning of this essay you were probably wondering what they had to do with the rights and responsibility. Well I'll tell you: I believe they were prime examples of people who stood up for what was right. It definitely wasn't easy for them, but they fought against hard times to achieve greatness for our country. And against all odds they succeeded.

Our nation is far from perfect, and I believe that we realize this, but thanks to all the stubborn people who refused to take "no" for an answer, our nation has turned into a wonderful place full of reachable dreams and acceptance to all.

Acceptance? What exactly does that mean? And is it to all or to all Americans? I think it is so sad that it has become an issue in the first place; I believe our nation is in big trouble right now, and we're just digging ourselves into a bigger hole.

If you think I'm getting in way over my head you have something else coming because I am your future, along with the other millions of kids that your decisions are affecting, we are affected with every law that you pass, with every budget that you cut, and especially with every action that you take. So right now some Americans are going into Iraq on suspicions that we have acquired, you're using a process that my math teacher has taught me.

It's called "Guess and Check". With this you guess a solution and put it in your equation to see if it's true or not if you don't have the slightest idea in the first place, which means you have a fifty-fifty chance that you are right, and if so, a lot of good will come out of it. But with that 50% chance that we're wrong, our lives will be forever changed.

At this very time my family and I are being directly affected by these decisions. My father, Master Sergeant Christopher Patrick Villers of the United States Air Force is overseas doing his very best to protect our nation. Whether he's out there in the first place is right or not is beside the point, never the less he is my biggest hero and I support everything that he does.

Now the last thing I'm asking for is pity because that would be very selfish of me, but I am asking for gratitude for every family who is living without a mother or father, son or daughter, brother or sister.

There is one thing that I wonder though, and that is if so many people don't agree with the decisions that our government are making, why aren't we doing something about it? This is a democracy, is it not?

And if nobody is willing to stand up, how will our voices be heard?

This is not a time to be afraid of what others might think of you even though at times their opinions can be very intimidation. What if Martin Luther King Jr. had been too afraid to stand up? What if just said "no bother, somebody else will eventually take on the responsibility of making our world a better place for our children to live in"? His family's life was threatened him, and at the end they ended up taking his life without any warning. So if you're going to be afraid, be afraid that at the end of your life you will regret that you didn't take the opportunity to make a difference.

And if nobody stands up for what is right, then what is from wonderful people will our grandchildren be able to look back on?

Which brings me to another point, which will be considered quotable in the history books one-hundred years from now? And will it be for the good, or the bad? Who am I going to be able to look back on as great leaders? And there's no doubt in my mind there are wonderful leaders in our country, but how will we remember you? What are you going to do to change yourself from a great leader to a never forgotten role model?

If one person stands, that's all it's going to take. That one person can change America forever. I believe that once they do a lot of Americans will be very thankful to know that they are not alone because we as individuals need to know that we have a strong leader a head of us. They will probably end up supporting you the whole way through. So just take one more moment to think about this, out of the millions of people in the United States, it's up to one person to change the course of our future. So I am excited to find out who the next Abraham Lincoln or Theodore Roosevelt will be. What a great honor.

I have this saying that reads "You should live life like you'll be remembered forever." I'm not sure who wrote it in fact I didn't even didn't even know it had an author until I wrote this essay, which made me a little upset because as long as I can remember I've been living by it thinking it would one day become famous with my name underneath it. Oh well, I still hope that more people will take time to try to understand what it means. I have done the same, and this is what I figure; I think it means to let yourself believe that everything that you do will make an impact on everyone. No matter if it's a simple suggestion to your student government at school or a letter to your Congress stating concerns that you have dealing with the decisions they are making.

If you think about it the future seems so far away, and you must wonder how you, yourself will effect it at all? But I promise you, you will. Just take life one day at a time living as the best American you can be, and I'm sure that will be no problem because the people of yesterday left us great influences that we can follow. And I'm positive that there are good times to come. So I'm going to leave you wondering "How will Tomorrow look back on today?"

Samantha - Age 16 - Salt Lake City, UT
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