



Heritage Academy's

Independence

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Our Mission

It is the mission of the *Independence* to share the messages of Heritage Academy scholars with their community, and to promote ideas of freedom and American ideals.

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“Fixing Our Priorities”

By: Elesha Barlow

“We are a nation that has a government -- not the other way around” (Reagan, 146).

America was founded on basic rights that are unalienable by any power on earth and that is what makes this country so great.”

These concepts of religion, thought, and responsibility make it possible for people to trust each other and self-govern themselves. Self-government is what makes a people excel in ways never dreamed of before. This opens the possibilities for people to live and breathe without intrusions from powerful governments. As Calvin Coolidge said, “A spring will cease to flow if its source be dried up; a tree will wither if its roots be destroyed” (Coolidge, 68). The Constitution is the ‘source of the spring’ and ‘roots of the tree’ for America. The government’s job, as outlined in the Constitution, is to protect people and allow them to provide for themselves. However, the government has violated some of the boundaries that were set in the beginning. Americans have begun to shift their focus from those founding principles to more frivolous things like mandatory healthcare and other

government-funded programs, which should be secondary priorities. We need to make it point to shift back to the basics. We need to stand up for what is right, because that is what America really is. That is what America has always been.

Our founding fathers bore ridicule and persecution, even fought a war so that Americans throughout time could enjoy basic divine rights. As time went on, the government began overstepping its boundaries and as citizens, we have confused ourselves about what is really important. We need to have a reawakening of ideas, a revival of American patriotism. We need to take those ancient divine rights, more important than human rights or civil rights, “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” (Jefferson, 37), the inalienable rights granted us the day we were born. Those principles should be most important. If this can be accomplished, it is guaranteed that America can maintain her greatness.

Thomas Jefferson once said, “I, however, place economy among the first and most important virtues of a republic...”

(Jefferson, iv). The reason economy is great in America, is the freedom of thought and new ideas. People have the freedom to think without oppression from outside forces. Innovation, invention, and new ideas perfectly illustrate this concept. Where were airplanes invented? America. Where was the idea of the internet developed? America. Where did we get the modern conveniences such as indoors plumbing and electricity? America. “Individual liberty in a free enterprise system produced an explosion of prosperity and progress in invention, production, commerce, religion, education, [and] health” (Stradling, 4). How did all of this occur in only about two hundred and fifty years? America is based on principles that bring happiness and originality. It opens new doors for all to be able to have novel thoughts and ideas. All of this is possible because of the basic rules which were established from the beginning so that people could be free. Free to think! Free to live the way they desired! Free to be the person inside of them!

Freedom to ask “Why?” has influenced a great many of Americans to be intuitive and creative. Not “Why?” in a rebellious sense, but for the sake of

exploration and understanding. People asked, “Why is a fire the only way to have heat?”, and now we have indoor heating. People asked “Why is a computer the only way to access the internet?”, and now we have the internet in our pockets. This is only because of freedom in America. Freedom drives people to greater heights.

The founding fathers intended for this to be a great country. They imagined a future where America would be self-sustaining and ‘stand up on its own two feet’. They created a blueprint for a nation that would become very popular. People would come from everywhere in the world, just so that they could live their life based on their own feelings and beliefs. Churchill stated, “In the shelter of the Constitution nature has been conquered, a mighty continent has been brought under the sway of man, and an economic entity established, unrivalled in the whole history of the globe” (Churchill, 89). He is commenting how that since we have the Constitution, we are able to have this amazing country. America cannot stay free forever without some people caring enough to keep it free. In order for us to maintain this incredible economy and keep this unique and

wonderful thing alive, we have to stick to the basics. We must fight to preserve the nation; to preserve the simple principles for which many have lost their lives and will continue to lose their lives. If we maintain the standards essential for greatness, we will fulfill the founders wonderful intentions for this country.

There are many ways in which we can support our country, but in everything we do, let us make it a point to be as close to the founding ideas of this nation as we can. Let us protect and stand up for these principles. Put them on the top of your list!
We can Make America Great Again!

“Standing for Freedom”

By: Dayson Durfee

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing” (Burke, Edmund). When freedom is present, and men actively work for that freedom, then people are able to flourish, grow, progress, and reach their potential. Freedom, is the opportunity to think, trust, choose, worship, and live without fear. America today is a symbol of freedom that is filled with the qualities and strengths that Americans in the past possessed and that Americans today should have. Repeatedly, history shows that men will work for a common cause that builds up the rights of the individual. However, although many people have worked for freedom, few know the true meaning of what that freedom is. Throughout the many events and examples of history, freedom is most prominent when people aid, people act, and people work for the equality and lives of their fellow men.

When freedom is available to a nation, the men of that nation will help others of their own accord. Alexis de Tocqueville states, “Americans make great and real sacrifices to the public welfare...

they hardly ever failed to lend faithful support to each other” (Tocqueville 125). Evidently, this came as a surprise to Tocqueville who, on his first visit, had never seen anything like it before. The unity and selflessness of the American people was astonishing to him. In his farewell address to the nation, George Washington stated the following, “You have in common cause fought and triumphed together” (Washington 83). Basically, Washington is praising the people for answering the call to come and fight for the freedom of their families, friends and that of the nation as a whole. When the call came, Americans responded with zeal! They aided each other in the fight for the welfare of their nation. If men fight for a common cause like freedom, then they will prevail.

In order for men to be free, they must stand up with faith and act like men. Thomas Paine declares, “Throw not the burden of the day upon Providence, but show your faith by your works” (Paine 50). In essence, Paine is insisting that men should never wait for someone else to do

something for them. By saying this, Paine argues that men should work for and provide for themselves and their family. As Patrick Henry stated, "We must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight!... Give me liberty or give me death!" (Henry 32-33). In other words, Henry believes that men have to act for themselves in order to obtain freedom. They cannot wait for another to secure their freedom, they must do attain it themselves. Henry is not asking the men to follow this statement, he is demanding that this command be obeyed. If men are lazy, then the ability to act will be lost, which will lead to the loss of freedom.

Possessing freedom, men will show kindness and respect to others because when men have freedom, they learn that all men are created equal and will treat others accordingly. Repeatedly, Tocqueville praises the good deeds of the American people. He states, "Since he (an American) is never either their master or their slave, his heart readily leans to the side of kindness" (Tocqueville 125). In other words, because Americans believe that all men are created equal, they are willing to help the poor. When men are free, they will have more reason to help their fellow men because they

will naturally come to help the poor. Marquis de Lafayette states, "In America, there are no poor, nor even what we call peasantry. Each individual has his own honest property, and the same rights as the most wealthy landed proprietor" (Lafayette 52). Lafayette observes that Americans possess an intensely strong belief that all men are created equal. Even the poor in America are treated with equality and fairness. By treating others with kindness and respect, men earn the right to have freedom.

When the fight for freedom begins, the common man will aid and support those he unites with. But, in order for a man to join the fight, he must be willing to sacrifice and act for the good of those around him. Zealously, Benjamin Franklin states that, "They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety" ("Franklin, Benjamin"). What Franklin says is a shocking statement to the lazy man. This is a call to action for all men who feel the burning desire to stand for their freedom, for their rights, for their families, and for their nation. In order for these things to be preserved, men must make the choice today.

Will they stand as true men, and be the
heroes who will lead the fight for freedom?
This freedom is not easily attained, those

who actively work for it will be required to
sacrifice comfort, possessions, and loved
ones. Will you stand?

“Freedom in the Eyes of Troops”

By: Cordell Shull

As we live our daily lives as average Americans, there are other men and women sacrificing their lives to protect our freedom. I was able to get interviews with some veterans to see how they viewed American Freedom. I asked them questions to see what they thought and then added in how I saw freedom. I had questions about patriotism and I wanted the best answers I could find. The questions that I asked were as follows:

Why did you originally join the military?

Why do you think it is important to maintain and preserve freedom?

Why do you think people want/wanted to take our freedom away? And why do you think people are willing to take them away?

What can an average American do to preserve freedom?

Do you think freedom is worth fighting for?

What would you like the rising generation to know and understand about freedom? Here's what they think.

“THESE are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.” (Pg. 49 Paine) These men put their lives on the line fighting for what they believed in. They all had different reasons why they wanted to join the military. Jason Mow said, “It was a lack of options was why I originally joined the military. There wasn't much for me here in this area when I returned from my mission, and it just so happened that we invaded Iraq in 1991 and it looked like fun.” Before he joined he wanted to be a police officer and didn't have life skills; thus, he thought that joining the army would help with achieving that skill. I asked Hanz Brown and he said, “I kind of had a desire to serve and the benefits outweighed everything else. I was just recently married and found out that my wife was pregnant and it floated into place and felt like it was the right thing to do so we decided to go with the Reserves so I could finish my education as well.” My

great grandfather Corrin R. Gray joined so that the military would pay for his education as well. Sgt. Daniel Howell, who is my dad, said, "That's something that I've plan on doing since I was a little kid, I've always wanted to be a soldier and serve my country." I have a dream of joining the military myself and becoming an Army Ranger. I also want to join to help fight for our freedom.

Maintaining freedom is important, especially here in America. If we didn't have our freedom, our world could be corrupted. We need the freedom that the Founding Fathers privileged us. They were the ones that started America and we can't put their hard work to shame. A close friend of mine by the name of John "Gorgeous" Linton told me that, "Freedom is being free. We're not being governed by a dictatorship so we have our freedom to choose." What I thought he was trying to say is that we have our freedom to do as we please and we don't have an all-powerful leader controlling what we do. "Without freedom you don't have anything. That's why it's important to maintain it. Every decision you make is based on your individual freedom." Jason Mow couldn't have said it better. Freedom is

based off of choices that we make to help or hinder America. Hanz Brown said, "A lot of people think freedom is just free, but in a lot of ways it's not free. We sacrifice our lives out there so we can have freedom here in the United States. It's important to have our freedom so that we can be able to live our lives the way live without some person judging or telling us on how we need to live our lives and giving us direction." We need our freedom so no one else has to make the decisions for us.

Many people have thoughts and ideas of how they want to take away our freedom. I have thought that some people get jealous of our freedom and want to take it away from us so that we can feel how others feel. I also think that people want to take it away because they think we have too much freedom. Others may think that freedom doesn't work or is corrupt and needs to be removed immediately. Dan Howell said, "One of the reasons they're willing to take it away is that it's not something they're not accustomed to or they haven't had it in whatever area they lived in or environment they've been in." Corrin Gray said that there is an intellect to dominate. Take for example Hitler in the

First World War. He wanted to develop the master race; he essentially wanted to be the king of Germany, and he wanted to be the leader of the world. And it's always been an interest to me: "What would he do with the world if was dictator?" What would he do with it? He would do nothing." He continued on and later was talking about how you would later be crushed because you can be too powerful, or someone will take that power away from you.

I believe that there are many ways that Americans now can help save and preserve our freedoms. "I love the man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink; but he whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves his conduct, will pursue his principles unto death." (Waldo 50). We need people like this to help us preserve our freedom so that people don't take away our freedoms. Jason Mow says, "Educate yourself, and understand what history really is not what you're being taught but what it really is. Understand what really means to be free." Like what Jason said we need to know and understand what freedom is. Hanz Brown said, "Continue to

believe what our Founding Fathers believed in, that's where it began. To understand, to know, and to take heart what the Constitution did for our country and to read the Declaration of Independence and to take that within you." This is exactly what we are doing now in our class. "Considering the pleasant life I lead in this country, my sympathy with the people, which makes me feel as much at ease in their society as if I had known them for twenty years, the similarity between their mode of thinking and my own, and my love of liberty and of glory, one might suppose that I am very happy" (Lafayette 53). Lafayette even appreciated what America was doing with their freedom. However, now it has changed.

"War was not our object or wish: on and continued to hope, even against hope, that the gentler methods of petitioning and remonstrating might was not a war of ambition, but a justifiable self-defense against the claims of an arbitrary power, which was attempting to wrest from us the privileges we had all along enjoyed, and to subject us to a state of abject servitude." (McClintock 65). I exceedingly believe that freedom is definitely worth fighting for. We

need freedom to be able to protect us and help become the America we need to become. Freedom is important to us, and without it, we would be nothing. John Linton said, "Yes. All through the years and wars we've been in up until recently our lands have been protected. It's worth fighting for to keep the freedom we have." I believe it's worth dying for protecting our freedom, because if we don't have freedom, then America isn't what it's supposed to be. Dan Howell stated, "Freedom is something that people fought and died for and will continue to die and fight for it throughout history."

I think that our generation now needs to just help America out. I believe that our generation may be bad; however, I believe that people may rise to the challenge and help America so that it can have a brighter and better future. I will do anything to make sure that America is willing to get the freedom it deserves. Hanz Brown wants everyone to know this. "Never give up. Freedom is going to be a sacrifice. We're going to have to make some changes, and acknowledge that freedom is never going to be free. Blood will be shed all the time to maintain our freedoms here in the United

States so that we can continue to build our nation and become strong again and be able to remain strong." Jason Mow also wanted to add, "If you don't square yourself away it'll be taken from you. It's a gift. It's a privilege. We use these words rights when we should be using the word privilege. It's a privilege to be an American, it's a privilege to live in this place, it's a privilege to be free, and it's a privilege to serve. With these great privileges comes a great responsibility. If you're not willing to stand for what is right it will be taken away from you. If you can't govern yourself then someone will govern you." I believe that freedom is a major quality that makes America great. Individual freedom is the bedrock upon which is built. If we let our freedoms slip away from our grasp, America will fall. I hope that we may be able to be at peace and that we may be able to get the freedom that we as Americans labored immensely for.

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"Liberty cannot be preserved
without general knowledge
among the people."

-John Adams



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