

## Veteran's Day Essay:

### "Patriotism Saves Lives"

In this thriving informational age, we are constantly exposed to news of distant countries, distant conflicts, and distant ideas. We are free to think whatever we want to think. We are free to say what we want to say. We are free to live how we want to live. These freedoms were won by our veteran heroes for patriotism still and always will matter to them. What we fail to realize is that patriotism must matter to all Americans so that our nation can continue to flourish. There are real wars in foreign countries with real weapons and real fatalities. There are real families losing loved ones. There are American soldiers fighting and dying every day for our freedom. Without the support of everyday average Americans, there would be no America for us to live in. The one time in our history when patriotism matters the most is now.

During the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, a sense of surrealism descended on America. When I saw the live images coming in through the television, it more closely resembled a movie than a news program. This was the first time since World War Two that there has been an attack on American soil. I have the deepest admiration for the first responders who rushed to the scene to rescue any survivors. Without patriotic people like these, there would be nothing keeping this country from more of these attacks. The government can only do so much. The average American citizen has the real power in keeping their country safe. Patriotism saves lives.

Considering the chilling plausibility of a third world war, the security of the lives of every person on the Earth is at risk. Since its conception, America has been a beacon of hope for torn and oppressed countries all over the world. As one country, it has saved countless lives. This was made possible by our dedicated servicemen and women. Patriotism mattered and still matters for servicemen and women currently serving around the world. It is necessary for all Americans to have patriotism, lest they conserve the stream of freedom that America has always stood for.

The real reason that patriotism still matters is that America dies without patriotism. The spirit of America is another name for patriotism, and nothing can exist without a spirit. Patriotism still matters because now matters, and all we have is now.