

2014 County Wide Patriotic Essay

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In a republic, every citizen is entrusted with rights and responsibilities. Those who are entrusted with rights are responsible to exercise those rights for good. The Founding Fathers of America knew this truth. As leaders of the thirteen colonies, they gathered together and recognized the need for a new government. They had been given the powers of leadership and jurisdiction over their fellow colonists, and now were expected to use those powers for more than themselves. Yet they needed to write down a format for the new nation. The result was the creation of The Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. Today, this country still operates primarily on the laws and ideals made manifest by these two indispensable documents. However, we sometimes fail to stop and admire these two documents as frequently as we should. To some, they are just old parchments that we drag out every July 4th and read aloud in the town square. No, they are more than just old documents written by famed men of history. They are symbols of what we stand for, of what we believe to be right. These symbols are worthy of our utmost respect and honor. It is therefore my sacred duty to preserve, protect, and defend these symbols, both for today and for future generations.

The genius of the Founding Fathers lies in the collage of ideals they collected for both The Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution. These ideals would provide the foundation for the greatest republic in existence. From the Greeks, they adopted the idea that every citizen has a choice and say in their government. From the Romans, they borrowed the concept that every citizen is responsible to law, even the leaders. From the Hebrews, our Founding Fathers embraced the belief that leaders are expected to uphold the law in service of

the people, not of themselves. Yet another ideal came from the enshrined Magna Carta. This document helped convince the Fathers that every citizen has, as Thomas Jefferson wrote, "inalienable rights" which cannot be taken away by man, even the supreme leader! These and many more historical sources helped inspire the Founding Fathers to create documents which serve as a banner of American values, past, present, and future combined. The values they constructed are my values as well. The belief that every man is responsible to law and has a duty to his fellow citizens has captivated my learning and vocation in life. Such ideals have compelled me to join the armed forces later in life. The ideals which the patriots fought for deserve nothing less than my best effort to ensure they inspire and remind citizens both today and to come. Help inspire citizens to accept the duties but also the privileges of citizenry. Remind citizens that rights and responsibilities are more than just words, they are lifestyles. Lifestyles which must be paid for on, as Abraham Lincoln said during the Civil War, "the altar of liberty". This is my quest, both as a citizen and future soldier. I bear this mission proudly.

As stated earlier, every citizen has rights and responsibilities. When it comes to these two documents, it is both our right and responsibility to see that these documents remain intact and visible for the next generation to cherish. Both documents clearly share the fact that they exist not just for today, but for the future as well. In the Preamble of the Constitution, the Fathers write "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity." The Fathers did what they did not just for themselves, but in the hopes that future offspring would enjoy the liberties the patriots died for. In the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson writes, "It is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government and to provide new Guards for their future Security." The Founding Fathers proclaimed it was their "Right and Duty" to fight for a free

nation. They would fight for the America of then, and fight for the America of tomorrow as well. This notion makes me feel blessed to be a citizen and have rights and responsibilities. I intend to use these blessings in my career as a soldier. The Founding Fathers were concerned for the future, as am I. They remembered their responsibilities to the people and realized that responsibility extends beyond the present. This is the assignment handed down to us from the Founding Fathers: use one's precious freedoms while thinking of others. I accept this assignment both as my right and duty.

In conclusion, The Declaration of Independence and US Constitution are more than just old documents from the colonial era. Those old documents remind and assure that every American has "inalienable" rights as well as responsibilities to act on those rights for good. They explain how and why we have these rights and responsibilities. The ideals which the Founding Fathers penned down on these two documents stand as banners for America. Banners to live for, fight for, and if needed die for. Both these documents have impelled me to join the military someday. Both documents have helped me hear the call to duty, loud and clear. To serve as an officer and lead the sons and daughters of this country is my dream. The US Constitution and Declaration of Independence have helped point me towards my future career as a soldier. They inspire me to lead my fellow Americans in war and in peacetime. They give me reason to stand tall and proud, shoulder to shoulder with my fellow Americans. We stand as one nation and fight for a strong present, and an even stronger future. This is how The Declaration of Independence and Constitution make me feel. My rights and responsibilities are to be exercised for your freedom and mine.