

LET FREEDOM RING

By **KARAJO JONES**

I can't tell you what it feels like to be persecuted for my beliefs or feel unsafe constantly in my own country. I don't know what it's like to not have a voice or a choice. I've never been deprived of my rights and been oppressed. Being an American to me is my life. Knowing I'm in control of my life and no one else. Knowing I'm safe, going to school, living in happiness and comfort. These things are small things, but even these things many people are deprived of.

Being an American is about keeping these freedoms for future generations and spreading these freedoms to others. I know I am being protected, and there are people dying for my every freedom. I can't tell you how great being an American is because I don't know how terrible it is not to be an American. I only know that I am free and people had to die to make me free and will keep dying for that freedom. We are all lucky to have freedom and to have people who care so much about their fellow human beings to spend their lives and even die to keep freedom alive.

By **LOGAN KELLY**

Living in a democratic society has meant a lot to me. I am glad to know that I can walk out my front door without being arrested or hit. I am very thankful of the soldiers that died to make my life a better one. I am glad to have the chance to go to school and excel.

My life wouldn't be very good if I couldn't be free. In a democratic society I have the chance to make my life a good one. I appreciate the chance to put my choices into the government. I like the right to vote and the protection this country gives me.

By **NISH MILLAN**

Being an American means to me is very important because of the freedom and rights I have thanks to the Bill of Rights.

By **BRYCE LOFGREEN**

To me being an American means freedom. We have many freedoms in the U.S. that other countries do not have. We have the right to vote so we choose our leaders. We have the right to voice our opinions like the music we want to listen to, dress the way we want. We have the right to choose which religion we want. I am glad to be an American. I appreciate these freedoms.

By **BRAD NAZUM**

Being an American means enjoying more security, freedom, and liberty than any other nation in the world. Being an American means supporting and defending American democracy and every democracy that supports America. Being an American means pledging allegiance to the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands.

Being an American does not mean coming to America to become an American for no other reason than to have the freedom to harm other Americans for profit. Being an American means to be free from those who come to America not to become Americans but to harm Americans on behalf of foreign powers.

By **KYLE MINDRUP**

What being an American means to me. Being an American gives me pride, since I know what the country has been through and how it has handled it. At least five million people have probably died fighting for our country and others to protect them from communism and maybe another World War. Terrorists just make me sick because if they think about it, they could be living a pure life of peace instead of a dictator. If only they would overthrow their leader instead of attacking someone who could help. Finally, I am glad to be an American for if I was anywhere else life would be hard, unlike here in the beautiful United States of America.

Norton senior completing basic training this summer



Randa Tarbet

Randa Tarbet will be a senior at Norton Community High School this fall.

But, this summer she is completing basic training for the Army National Guard at Fort Jackson, S.C.

The Guard allows high school students that are 17 years of age and are a junior, or in the summer before their junior year, to enlist in the Army National Guard with parental consent.

Basic and advanced training are scheduled in the summer months so that it does not interfere with their high school studies.

Miss Tarbet signed on to be a power generator specialist. She will receive a \$10,000 sign-on bonus, \$17,568 in Montgomery GI Bill and GI Bill Kicker payments while a full-time college student, and 100 percent tuition assistance so that she may complete a college degree after she graduates from high school. Brenda Tarbet is her mother and received an award from the Kansas Army National Guard for her supporting her daughter's decision to enlist.

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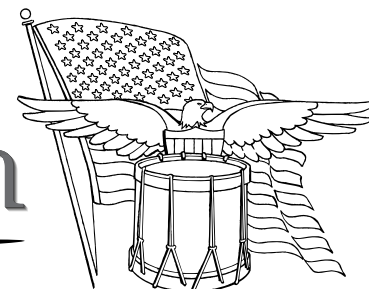


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