

Is There Pride in Serving in Our Military?

By Bailey Semple

Patriotism has, since the Revolutionary War, been a defining factor that has set the United States Military apart from other world powers. What exactly is patriotism? It is the love, devotion, and pride in one's country. What causes patriotism? From the beginning of the United States until today the strongest influence on patriotic views of Americans has been our military.

Our pride has torn us away from an overpowering tyranny. Soldiers in the Revolutionary War were not well trained or well equipped. However, their will and determination to help out our country allowed them to upset the largest superpower in the world at the time.

Our pride has torn the nearly unbreakable bond of brotherhood. During the civil war, brothers literally fought each other on battlefields. One brother's pride in the United States allowed him to defy his family's wishes in order to obey the wishes of his nation.

Our pride has allowed us to fight with and compete with nations around the world. The soldiers of World Wars I and II knew that by fighting they were helping not only their country, but others internationally. This fact gave them more pride than ever before. They were fighting for something larger than themselves. They are the most unselfish, brave human beings that have walked this earth.

Our pride in our military is still present today. After September 11, 2001, many people were devastated. Many had no idea how to react. But none lost their pride. In fact, patriotic views increased and became more evident. Our pride has allowed us to pursue and bring to justice those that had caused harm and suffering to our nation.

All of these examples prove that throughout our nation's brief history, pride in our military has been present the entire time. To the soldiers that fight in the wars, the faith and pride that the people show in them gives them their own sense of pride. They realize that they are fighting for the United States, not themselves. They realize the costs of being part of something that has been crucial to the success of this country. They are aware of the risks they have put around themselves. This makes them more proud to be a part of the United States Military. Proof of these realizations can be seen in many ways.

Cpl. Patrick David Deans was killed in Afghanistan on December 12, 2010, two days before his 23rd birthday. He was well aware of the dangers that surrounded him.

One month prior to his death he made a wall post on Facebook. It read, "A Veteran is someone, who at one point in their life wrote a blank check payable to the United States of America for an amount up to, and including their life. That is beyond honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer remember that fact." This quote proves the selfless characteristics that the members of our military possess. They do not join the military to be considered a hero. They do not join because it's fun. And they do not join just because it's the right thing to do. These brave men join because they have pride in their country. They only wish to see the country succeed. These men are the true patriots in America today. They are devoted to their country. They are willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice. Cpl. Deans proved this just one month before his death. His wish was to help the people of America realize that our soldiers are proud of what they do. They are honored to have the opportunity to fight for the nation they love.

Devotion, love, and pride. These are the qualities that our military members show towards our nation. These are the reasons they can be considered our true heroes. They are the reason we have pride in our military. They are the reason the sense of patriotism for the Red, White, and Blue will never cease to exist. And most importantly, as long as the people have faith and pride in them, they will be proud to serve their country to the best of their ability.