

Veteran's Day Essay

In my opinion, there are many things the United States flag stands for, and there's a few different ways to look at it's meanings. You may view it from a subjective sense, and see it as a symbol of freedom and unity. Or maybe you see it from a objective, factual standpoint. You may view it simply as stars representing a number of states, and 13 stripes representing colonies that built the foundations of our country. Above all, in my opinion, I believe the American flag displays the sacrifices of soldiers, and the lives lost to protect those who cannot protect themselves.

I believe the flag's purpose is, and always has been, to rally people together and produce strength. In wars of times' long past, a flag would be held by a horseman. And with all of the soldiers in a line, he would hold the flag above his head, and ride down the row; rousing courageous shouts from the men before they charged into battle. To this day, flags are displayed in army camps, on uniforms, and in front of our schools. People for hundreds of years have viewed the flag as a symbol of freedom and strength; and I cannot help but agree.

The American flag is very personal to me. It symbolizes the men and women who left their homes behind, in order to protect ours. I have many family members who have served, and I am so proud to be able to say that they risked their own safety in order to ensure mine. Many people now are upset about who is in power, and the way the government is handling many sensitive issues; and they show this by kneeling during the national anthem. And while I believe strongly in the freedom of speech, and still respect them as people, it is hard for me to stomach

that they could throw away all the sacrifices people have made, just because of the people they dislike in the government.

I'm not saying that our nation is perfect, and those people shouldn't express their opinions that way; because we as a country could do much more to ensure equality and fairness amongst our people. But, at the end of the day, it is not our opinions that matter. It is not what we say, but we *do*. The American flag symbolizes our many gifts as American citizens that we take for granted, and if we can't use them for good, why have we fought so hard for them?

As a country, we need to practice what the American flag stands for; from the objective sense. The red, representing hardiness and valor. The white, purity and innocence. And finally, the blue, displaying vigilance, perseverance, and justice. From the beginning of our nation, these qualities stood as top priority, and it should stay that way. I feel honored to look at our flag, and I hope we can always look at our country's banner with pride.