

IN HONOR OF THE WINNERS OF
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
WINSLOW TOWNSHIP'S VET-
ERANS DAY 2012 STUDENT ESSAY
CONTEST

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the winners of the Historical Society of Winslow Township's Veterans Day 2012 Student Essay Contest.

These nine students, in the 7th and 8th grades at Winslow Township Middle School and 12th grade at Winslow Township High School, wrote on what the word "freedom" means to them in their hearts. The moving prose of these young men and women is a testament to the patriotic spirit of the citizens of South Jersey and an inspiration to all Americans. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: KELLI O'NEIL, 7TH GRADE, 1ST PLACE WINNER

By definition freedom is; the power to determine action without restraint. But freedom means monumentally more than that to me. Speech, expression, faith these are only a few of the stripes on the beautiful rainbow that is freedom. Freedom is what sets America so high above the rest, what makes it such a beautiful place to live.

Every Sunday, millions of Americans go to church. Imagine if these millions of people were in a different country. Practicing their own religion may not be legal. Whilst this goes on for myself and to most Americans going to church feels like such a simple liberty.

As an adolescent female I am still in school getting an education and plan to continue through college. Now let's pretend I am in some other country for example. I would not be in school, I would be home doing housework caring for my siblings. Back in America I am permitted to wear whatever clothing I wish to wear; however, in some countries I shouldn't even show my own hair. All of these wonderful rights that I do have are given to me simply because America values freedom. Our flag flying through the air sings of freedom. And the graceful eagle soaring through the heavens screams freedom. Every day, I look at the things I do and wear and I am truly grateful for America and all of its freedoms.

I have the privilege of being in an honors writing class, and in this class I write exactly what I think and feel about any and every thing without fear of punishment by law. I cannot say the same for many other children in foreign countries. In these countries writing the way they feel about things like laws, politics, and leaders can result in great punishment. Without the freedom to express how I feel I don't know how I would survive. My opinions are who I am, and they are a piece of me.

Lee Greenwood once said, "proud to be an American Where at least I know I'm free, and I won't forget the men who died who gave that right to me." This is so incredibly true, and I would like to take this moment in time to put the spotlight on the soldiers who have passed away, our veterans, and our soldiers who are currently serving because they are the sole reason for all of these fantastic freedoms that me and my fellow Americans have today.

So, in conclusion, freedom is the biggest blessing ever bestowed upon the American people, and it is not to be taken for granted.

DEANNA PAUL, 7TH GRADE, 2ND PLACE WINNER

The first 10 amendments of the Constitution, or the Bill of Rights, set priceless rights and freedoms that Americans may enjoy. There is a rather large variety of them, ranging from the freedom of speech to just the right of traveling anywhere you want in the nation.

If you were to look in the dictionary for the word "freedom", you'd probably find that it means "free to do something or free of something", or anything within those lines. That'd be correct. The many freedoms that we as Americans have should be treated like gifts, as they are. However, our freedoms are often misused now, in a way our forefathers didn't intend them to be. For example, the freedom of speech, which is the freedom to say our opinions as long as they don't cause any harm to others, is now being used to bully and cause mental pain to citizens by Americans who want to cause trouble.

Nevertheless, our freedoms are still gifts and worth protecting. The many veterans who have fought for our country by sacrificing themselves, whether they were killed or wounded physically or mentally in battle or returned home intact, should and are respected by our nation. They fought or are fighting at the moment to keep things the way that they should be, to protect the millions of Americans who have the access to the freedoms in the Bill of Rights. Without those brave men and woman, we might not be the way we are today, as we would be vulnerable to other countries who mean harm to Americans because of our freedoms and policies.

Personally, I'm so used to these freedoms that they seem ordinary and unimportant, but after reading so many articles about the lifestyles and other events occurring in other parts of the world, I feel extremely lucky—and proud. I've learned that not all countries are lucky enough to have the same rights and freedoms that we are able to have, and that's worth protecting.

While practicing these freedoms throughout your ordinary lives, remember: They're special. People are out there fighting; just for us to feel safe while exercising those rights we were given. Be grateful. Use them the way they were intended to be used. And most importantly, respect our veterans.

SARAH MARSHALL, 7TH GRADE, 3RD PLACE
WINNER

Freedom is a lot of things. To an American citizen it is a privilege. To a mother in a dictated country it's a hope. Or to a government figure it is a law. But no matter what it means to different people, the definition of freedom will always be the same to me; a right.

Freedom can come in all different forms. For example; you could have freedom of speech, freedom of expression or freedom of religion. With freedom, I can speak out against almost anything (including our political and government system); I can choose and practice my own religion without fear of being abused or jailed, and so much more. Freedom is an important part to a great country.

In my opinion, everyone should be allowed to have freedom. It's not right to be killed or abused because of what you believe in or say. Some people take things like freedom, life and rights for granted. Not me. I will always remember that it is a huge privilege that a lot of people don't receive. I will also keep in mind not to abuse my rights and freedom because people died for it. They died for you and me, and everyone else in America to be able to express ourselves without risk. To have my rights taken away would be a dishonor. And I really hope that everyone who does have freedom realizes that.

In some countries, you can actually be shot at just for speaking your mind. A real life example of that is of a young female citizen from Pakistan. In Pakistan, they are currently fighting for women's rights. A young lady spoke her opinion on women having education and she was shot. This reminds us that we are lucky. Those of us in America wouldn't have been shot; we probably would've been rewarded. If the young women had been from the United States that tragic situation would never have happened due to the fact that women already have the right to education.

If you asked a professor what freedom means to them, the answer would be a thousand miles long. The answer is so long I couldn't fit it in this essay. But if it somehow wasn't clear how thankful I am for it, going to put it like this; Freedom is something to be thankful for. You should pray to your (a) god for it, discuss it at thanksgiving dinner, and visit the graves of those who died for it. You never know, thousands of miles away someone might be praying for the freedom you already have.

AKAASH PATEL, 8TH GRADE, 1ST PLACE
WINNER

Freedom . . . Such a small word for a very meaningful definition. Every day of our lives we are presented with this right. However, what exactly does freedom mean to you? To me, freedom means the moral principle of being able to choose how you live your life. Before freedom we were told what to believe in. We had no say so on what our lives would be like. However, we, as a united nation celebrate and declare freedom; not as a privilege but as a right.

Our forefathers fought for the right of freedom. They put their lives on the line for the sake of other people's rights. We should always be grateful that our founding fathers gave us freedom. Moreover, we should constantly honor America's veterans and active military. They have and are putting their feelings for this country into actions, not words. A picture paints a thousand words.

USA has many veterans coming back from Afghanistan. Some have come back from Vietnam. Some are even coming back from top priority missions that they enlisted in. However, all of these men and woman have one definite thing in common, their reason. All war veterans' reason for fighting always traces back to freedom. They believe in freedom and know deep in their heart what it means to them. America's veterans were, are, and forever will be dedicated to freedom. I think that freedom is a very unappreciated right. As a kid I woke up every day able to believe in what I wanted to. I was born into my religion. However I was not necessarily forced to accepting it. This was the perfect world our country's founders, veterans, and active military had created for me and everyone else to share. In spite of this, we truly do not honor this right enough despite the immense value it holds. You never miss something until you lose it.

In conclusion, freedom is essential in people's lives. We are free to choose any religion, believe in what we want, and do what we want. This entitlement to every US citizen keeps this country intact. In contrast, we would have never had this right unless our veterans and active military had not protected this sacred allotment. To sum it up, thanks to our brave and bold veterans and our courageous active military we live our lives and cherish freedom.

HARLEIGH MAE BURKE, 8TH GRADE, 2ND PLACE
WINNER

In the 1700's, when our founding fathers began sculpting the Constitution of our nation, there was one thing they all agreed on: Freedom is a right all people should be given

from birth, and the work they do under this liberty is how they earn their fortunes. To earn a fortune and be successful under this freedom is what is known as the American Dream. What few know, however, is that freedom is not a gift to all humanity, but an exclusive to only some.

It is thanks to the forethought of the founding fathers, the continued cooperation of the United States Military, and above all the passion of the people which keeps our freedom alive today. However, this begs the question, what is freedom, and what precisely does it mean?

Freedom, to me, is not merely the ability to do as you please, when you please, as long as it does not impose upon others. Freedom is the lifeblood of humanity, what enables man to live and prosper and change the World for the better. Not everyone is gifted with such a thing, and some of the idealists and geniuses and potential reformers of our generation will not get a chance at this, and will live their lives in oppression, cast aside by their governments as another mere pawn in their machine of simple parts.

Freedom manifests itself in every aspect of American life, from the business you built up yourself, to the house you own, to the education your children earn. Freedom is business, the arts, what has allowed the United States to develop a culture unlike any other. To such aforementioned countries who lack the glorious endowment of liberty, our United States, with its military towering high in our defense, and fame, and above all, the ability for any mere man to forge a life of empire-like status, is not only a desirable place to be, but a utopia. Where anything can happen.

And so, I ask of you, look at yourself, what you have, and what you've done. Think for a moment of where you would be if you were assigned to a life, told what to think, what to feel, what to do. Would you be where you are? Would you have what you've achieved? This distinction is freedom, and freedom is the United States, its military, and its people.

ELENI FINKELSTEIN, 8TH GRADE, 3RD PLACE
WINNER

Imagine coming to America from another country. You see a flag billowing with pride in the front yard of a happy family's house. The whole family was unique. Different clothes, different hobbies, but they were all having a good time. You begin to wonder why your family could not be happy back home or have those smiles on their faces. Your life was bland; a dry piece of toast, just like everyone else's. Then you realized it was because you weren't given individuality. To me, freedom means having the right to be an individual.

In other countries, you don't always have the freedom that we have in America. Often, you cannot dress how you'd like, say what you'd like, or do what you'd like. There was no uniqueness at all. Here in America though, we have that ability to be me. I can proudly say that in America, I can be me.

Have you ever wanted to pursue an interest but you weren't allowed? Your whole future could've been already planned if you found a job using that special hobby! This situation may happen continuously in other countries, but not in America! America has the freedom to let you do what you want. There is such a vast field of occupations you can work in here. You don't have to be just a factory worker, or forced to go into war. I could grow up and make a living out of the weirdest job in the world, only because I have the freedom to do so.

Now switch places for a moment. Instead of picturing you coming to America, picture yourself leaving America to go to war. Vet-

erans are extremely grateful for the freedom we have in our country because they know what it's like in other countries. When they go to war in another country, they are sometimes adapting to that country's life style for a small amount of time. They turn into them. They may be forced to act like everyone else in that country. They are simply a replica of the person standing next to them, across from them, all around them. Then, when they return back to America, they get to experience the excitement all over again. All of the freedom comes back to them. Once again, they can say what they please, do what they please, and be who they please. It is clearly shown that America has the freedom that other countries don't because they can be who they are.

"Individuals, with liberty and justice for all." These are the words that ring on my head when I think of our country. We really are the land of the free, because we can be individuals.

EMILY OSTRANDER, 12TH GRADE, 1ST PLACE
WINNER

I have always been a fan of Veterans Day. Of course, this is mostly because November eleventh happens to be my birthday as well as a national holiday. But, I have continually enjoyed and respected it for the appreciation and recognition it bestows upon those who have made it their duty to protect and serve this noble country. Freedom, to me, is the ability to live peacefully, and be who you want to be, in a world that is not very accepting.

Without our armed forces, the idea of freedom would be impossible. With no one to serve our country, fight our battles, where would we be? I cannot imagine what life in America would resemble if it were absent of freedom. It would not be the America we know and care for if it were devoid of liberty, justice, and independence. Both of my parents' fathers served in the armed forces at some point in their lives. My maternal grandfather served in the Korean War and came back home with a bullet in his leg. Every year when he calls me to wish me a happy birthday, I make sure to thank him for that service and tell him that I am proud of him for it. Thus, I am exceptionally grateful to the active military and the veterans who have risked their lives for the sake of freedom at this very moment, and in the past.

Furthermore, serving in the military is the most significant occupation in the world, yet it is also the toughest. Copious amounts of U.S. citizens spend or have spent massive amounts of time away from their families and loved ones to carry out their obligations to this country. I know I could by no means ever accomplish or begin to go through what veterans and the active military have had to undergo. I have enormous respect for those with the strength and courage to join the armed forces, and they will forever have my support and admiration for their achievements. Because of these achievements, I am able to live freely and peaceably whereas citizens in other countries may not be able to live this way.

Hence, I believe freedom is the idea that you have the power to choose what and who you desire to be; you can decide what to strive for and what to accomplish in life. However, this free will is only achievable because of the work of the active military and veterans. This immense, courageous, life-risking group of people deserve, have earned, this national holiday to commemorate their successes and brave service to the United States of America.

HOPE BARNSTEAD, 12TH GRADE, 2ND PLACE
WINNER

Freedom. Only seven letters, but together they create a word with more power than

any other found in the English language. But how can such a commanding word be defined? The beauty of this word is that it has countless definitions. Freedom is the courage found in every active service member as they start every day not knowing what is in store for them. Freedom is seeing our American flag waving steadily in the night, surrounded by a sky full of bombs. Freedom is bowing your head in prayer at the park without fear of being reprimanded. Freedom is the last pen to leave a trail of ink for the final signature on the Declaration of Independence. Freedom is living in America, the land of opportunity, where we have the right to choose our own president amongst a world full of tyrants. Throughout history freedom has always come at a great price, starting in 1776, when the founding fathers declared our independence from Great Britain. These men laid their lives on the line to defend the belief that all men are endowed with certain definitive and undeniable rights that cannot be taken from them. From that time on, Americans have stood united behind the idea that we are a nation of individuals who are free to live in the absence of fear. Since we value individuality and illuminate it through self expression and self-government, we need not fear forced conformity, and that is what makes America great. Freedom to me is waking up every morning without apprehension. I don't have to worry about being a woman and wanting an education. I don't need to hide my religion from those around me because I know I am free to worship as I please. I don't have to be afraid of who will lead our country because we have a say in who runs the United States of America. Without the dedication, bravery, hard work, courage, strength, and leadership of our nation's military and other service members, this freedom may not have been sustained. It's hard to imagine the feeling the soldiers felt as they walked into concentration camps to liberate the living skeletons as the stench of burning flesh filled the air around them. Who can picture what is what like weaving through the jungles of Vietnam as the soldiers were constantly on guard for any Vietcong looking to take their lives? How can one come close to feeling the absolute terror of the US army as they traveled to Pakistan to take down the terrorizing Osama Bin Laden? Our troops are willing to sacrifice their lives so we can stay in a nation that lets us live ours. Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "We, and all others who believe in freedom as deeply as we do, would rather die on our feet than live on our knees," and we are blessed enough to live in a country that gives us that freedom.

ADAM WHITE 12TH GRADE, 3RD PLACE WINNER

When you hear the word "freedom," you might not have the same definition of the word as the person right next to you. All definitions of the word are similar in meaning, but all are influenced by each of our own past history and ways of thinking. I have thought extensively on this word's definition, pondering on what "freedom" means to me, and I now believe that freedom is the ability to live life normally and enjoy it without the fear of oppression or harm.

Many of us take this for granted. In other countries, their citizens might not have this same luxury. We, as a nation, are very lucky to live life like this. Unfortunately, it can come with a heavy price. We have been able to live this way only because we know that we are being protected by hard-working men and women who wish only to serve our nation. These men and women are the members of the Armed Forces. Each and every day, they risk their lives to protect ours no matter where they are, whether they're in a small town in the U.S. or a small town in the

Middle East. They make sure that nothing happens to us so that we can continue living the way we do.

However, as mentioned before, such a luxury comes with a price. Some members of our active military are lucky enough to return home with their lives, but some aren't. Yet this has not stopped people from joining the military in the past before. In World War II, when the world was threatened by one of the most infamous leaders in history, did we surrender? We did not, and hundreds of thousands of people were ready to defend our country and what we believed in, even if it meant traveling overseas, or being haunted by the gruesome memories of war for the rest of their lives, or to die trying. Our veterans faced these same consequences and have to hurdle over the same obstacles, and that didn't stop them from doing their duty. They protected us to make sure that we could forever keep our freedom and our rights from the hands of our enemies.

We have much to thank of our veterans and of our active military for their services to this country and for their services to us. Without them, we would not have the same freedoms as we do now. Our world would be completely different without them. But thankfully they are here to save us when we need them most. Thankfully, with these men and women as our guardians, we can continue to live life normally and enjoy it without the fear of oppression or harm.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE REOPENING OF ST. JAMES CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of St. James' Church, one of the 11 Cleveland Catholic Diocese parishes that will be reopening this year.

In 2009 it was announced that several of the Cleveland Catholic Diocese's area churches, including St. Barbara's, were to close. However, just months ago, the Vatican overruled this decision and St. James' will be reopening its doors on Wednesday, July 25, 2012.

St. James Church was founded in 1908 as the founding parish for the cities of Lakewood and Rocky River. For more than a century, St. James has been a house of worship and gathering for the Catholic residents of Lakewood, Ohio.

After Bishop Lennon's 2009 announcement parishioners gathered together and formed Friends of Saint James/Save Saint James in an effort to stop the closing of their church. The members of Friends of Saint James/Save Saint James are committed to the preservation of Saint James as a parish and an architecturally significant structure in the City of Lakewood. They have dedicated themselves to the development of a long range financial plan for capital improvements and maintenance of the church and its programs.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the reopening of St. James' Church, a beloved parish that has returned to the City of Lakewood.

TRIBUTE TO ROSEMARY BOURNS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Rosemary Bourns, who passed away on Wednesday, September 26, 2012. Rosemary was a pillar of the community in Riverside, California and she will be deeply missed.

In 1947, Rosemary and her newlywed husband Marlan moved to California from Michigan, and they began their electronics components manufacturing company in humble settings—the garage of their new home in Pasadena. While Marlan took care of the engineering side of the business, Rosemary oversaw the books and made sure that their house could accommodate the seven engineers working with her husband. The couple eventually moved the company, now renamed Bourns, Inc., to Riverside in 1950 to boost manufacturing operations in order to keep up with rising demand.

In her free time, Rosemary loved telling stories and arranging flowers. She and her husband always accomplished things as a team, from starting their business to moving it to Riverside. They also selflessly gave back to their community. In 1992, the Bourns family gave the University of California, Riverside (UCR) the single-largest donation it had received to that date, a \$6 million gift for its new College of Engineering, eventually named Bourns College in the family's honor. In the years that followed, they continued to support the College, and the west engineering building was named Bourns Hall.

The way in which Rosemary lived her life should serve as reminder to others that an individual with drive, perseverance and a stellar work ethic can do great things. In 2000, Rosemary and her husband were recognized as UCR Laureates, and in 2010 the family was honored by the Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship with its Lifetime Award. University of California, Riverside Chancellor Timothy P. White said of Rosemary, "On the UCR campus, Rosemary Bourns' name has been synonymous with the accomplishments of strong, hardworking women . . . She will always be honored through the accomplishments of the faculty and students in the Bourns College of Engineering."

In addition to her husband, Rosemary is survived by her son Gordon; daughters Linda Hill, Anita Macbeth and Denise Moyles; 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Rosemary will always be remembered for her incredible contributions to business, her work ethic, generosity, and love of family. Her dedication to her work, family and community is a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Rosemary's family and friends; although Rosemary may be gone, the light and goodness she brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

IN HONOR OF CZECHOSLOVAK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Czechoslovak Independence Day, which is being celebrated at Cleveland's National Bohemian Hall on October 26 through 28, 2012.

Czechoslovak independence was declared on Wenceslas Square on October 28, 1918 and the Czechoslovak Republic was established. Thomas Masaryk was both the founder and the first president of the Czechoslovak Republic, often referred to as the "First Republic." Although Czechoslovakia only lasted two decades because of Nazi Germany's occupation of the Czech Lands in 1938, Czechs continue to view October 28 as the day of their national founding.

Bohemian National Hall was built in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1897 to cultivate friendships, charity and benevolence among the Bohemian nationalities. Included in their priorities were gymnastics, education and the advancement of their culture. Thomas Masaryk made two visits to Cleveland in his lifetime, one in 1902 and another in 1918 where he spoke at the National Bohemian Hall. Located in Cleveland's Slavic Village neighbor, today Bohemian National Hall serves as the home to the Czech Cultural Center.

This year's celebration of Czechoslovak Independence Day will be celebrated by Cleveland's Czech community and Sokol Greater Cleveland at Bohemian National Hall between October 26 and 28.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the anniversary of Czechoslovak Independence Day, October 28, 2012.

LEXINGTON COUNTY IS FIRST

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the following article was published recognizing the leadership of Lexington County, South Carolina, as a Purple Heart County in the Lexington County Chronicle on September 20, 2012:

LEXINGTON IS THE FIRST PURPLE HEART COUNTY

Lexington County became the first in the state to be designated as a Purple Heart County.

A resolution was read before Lexington County Council, Sept. 11, that named Lexington a Purple Heart County.

"It's a recognition and a show of support for not only Purple Heart recipients, but for veterans and all of those who served," said Stan Thornburgh.

Thornburgh, of Lexington, is a past commander of the Col. Charles Murray Memorial Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The chapter is based in Columbia, but many of its members live in Lexington County.

Thornburgh received the Purple Heart after being wounded in Vietnam in 1969.