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## “Land Of The Free Because Of The Brave”

Throughout the U.S.’s short history, it has seen many wars, including the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Indian Wars, the Mexican Wars, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Through all of these, Americans have fought and died. They knew the risks but still were willing to fight for their country. Some people didn’t always fight but led the Americans to win the battles and wars and founded the structure for our great country—like Dr. Warren, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John and Sam Adams, Paul Revere, and all the Founding Fathers. These people are all Patriots, and we should be immensely grateful to them. They sacrificed their lives for us to live in a free land.

Starting with the Revolutionary War, when America won its independence because of people who were willing to fight and die for liberty and freedom. Without them, we would not have our great country today. They died because they knew they were fighting for a greater cause, and put their country before themselves.

An example of such a man was Dr. Joseph Warren, who died fighting for America. He was as important and influential to the American Revolution as George Washington but is

forgotten by so many Americans today. He helped inspire courage and strength into so many Americans' hearts.

In *Saving Dr. Warren... "A True Patriot"* by Jeffery J. McKenna, it shows how strong the courage of the Americans was to fight for their land, rights, liberty, and eventually, their country when it states, "Steve heard these new Redcoats crying out things like, 'Move, you dogs!' and 'Let the King's men come through!' ... Steve saw no one in the crowd of people with a weapon other than a few who held sticks. No one, not one person in the crowd, moved out of the way, or backed down to the Redcoats." (*Saving Dr. Warren... "A True Patriot"* pg.111) Even unarmed and untrained the Patriots at the Boston Massacre would not back down from their enemy, because they knew if they didn't fight for what they believed in, no one else would. People came to America for liberation from oppression on things like religion and speech and still do today. When the British Regulars began taking away their freedom, the early Patriots chose not to back down from what they worked hard to achieve and build. They all paid prices and made sacrifices, and they were ordinary farmers and fathers. These Minutemen defeated, at the time, the largest, most distinguished military force on the planet. These are the men that started and ended the American Revolution.

That was over 245 years ago and our country is now a beacon for the world to see because of their sacrifices. People from all over the world come to America for freedom and a better life. That was why my grandma moved from Belize in Central America to come to the United States. If she hadn't done that then my mom wouldn't have had me, and I couldn't live in this great country. My neighbor also moved here and has an American flag on the edge of his yard near the road. Most people have flags like this and put them out during special days, like Veteran's Day, Flag Day, Patriot Day, etc. but he keeps it up every day. At night he has a light

that shines on it so it can stay up. The pole it flies on is made of rebar and is cemented into the curb, so even if the wind blows hard, it stays strong. He has done this for countless years. This is a small act of Patriotism. He doesn't fight wars or make big decisions in the Capitol. He simply keeps his flag up and sits on his porch saying "hi" to anyone that walks by, and even has an extra chair out for people that want to sit and chat; which happens very often because of his kind, soft demeanor, and interesting, fun conversations.

The U.S. was founded by Patriots just like him. Ordinary people pushed to fight for themselves and their colonies eventually creating their country. Now our country needs Patriots today. Some examples of recent Patriots are Micheal P. Murphy who was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroic actions during the war in Afghanistan. Todd Beamer who led the take-over of the cockpit of Flight 93 and steered it clear of the White House sacrificing his life, or Jeffery J. Mckenna who wrote the book *Saving Dr. Warren... "A True Patriot"* to help educate younger generations about past Patriots.

Everyone today can be a Patriot, even if it isn't through being things like soldiers on the battlefield or a great President in the White House. We can still do things like Steve O'Dell who wrote a book to remember great Patriots. I try to do my best by participating in flag ceremonies, community service in parks and other places—keeping this land clean, and learning as much as I can about the heroes of America, the True Patriots.

The events of 9/11 are a stark reminder of the importance of Patriotism. Paul Revere on his renowned ride, George Washington as a general and President, and especially Dr. Warren as a leader are astounding examples of what a Patriot is.

Though our country is young compared to others it has had much happen throughout its history and it has been shaken by events like the Civil War, Pearl Harbor, World War I & II,

Vietnam, and of course, 9/11. The Great United States of America was founded by rugged, enduring, devoted people and has stood strong because of its people throughout its history. Early Patriots gave their blood, sweat, and tears to make this land the *Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave*, and now it is our responsibility to keep it that way for all time.