Land Of The Free, Because Of The Brave



America, land of the free, because of the brave. This is something we see all over the place. We find this phrase on t-shirts, on banners, and on websites. We say it in our Facebook posts, to our family members, and think about it seldomly. But what does this phrase really mean, "Home of the Free because of the Brave"?

To me, this phrase reminds us that we are a free society. I can be a Christian, my neighbor can be a Muslim, and we both have the same rights in this country as Americans. We can worship as we like. We don't have to conform to a state religion. We don't have to worship anyone we don't want to worship.

We are free to pursue our happiness, to not be arrested for talking bad about the President, and to be able to speak out against things we don't agree with. I can practice free speech as long as I am not demeaning or spewing out hatred toward my fellow American.

This means that others have come before us to make sure that we have the freedoms we do. Whether they fought in a war or fought against terrorism in the middle east in more recent times.

As a spouse of a Vietnam Veteran, I look at my husband and all the others who have come before and after him. These men and women are the ones who have helped keep our country free. Those that gave up part of their own life, or all those who gave their lives for us to be able to live our lives the way that we do in freedom.

Being brave isn't easy. When I think about how brave people in history had to be, it takes my breath away. To stand and fight for a cause and

to not know what would happen. To know that they could lose their own lives for that cause and while doing so would make this world a better place, they would not be able to see it happen.



Whether they fought in a war or fought against terrorism in the middle east in more recent times, these were brave men and women who served to keep our homeland free.

Home of the Free because of the Brave means to be brave not only for today but for future generations. To be brave in the face of evil. To give up what others can't. To stand proud for our country. To stand proud for doing the right thing.

As America looks to the future, I hope that all of us can work toward the best interests of those living in our country. From sea to shining sea I hope that good things come out of any hardships and that those that continue to serve in any way are always respected and honored.

I hope that every year we can remember the cost of freedom, what we have been through, and where we have been. That we can remember those that came before and look to the heroes of the future who will continue to do good for the benefit of our country.

I know this means sacrifice. I know that blood has been spilt and will require even more in the future to keep this nation free. I know this means more pain for some people. But I know that bravery is never a bad thing and that I am thankful for those here who have been brave that helped our country remain free.

For those who served in Vietnam, and/or as police, or fire fighters, as you worked tirelessly in our local communities, and took a stand for

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liberty and justice for all as an American, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for serving our country.

I am thankful for all of you brave heroes here today. We are the Land of the Free because of your Bravery. Because of the Brave our flag flies high declaring the truth that Freedom is still alive.

Thank You.

Rita E. Tyler



