

# Does Patriotism Still Matter?

By Lexi Gibson

Does patriotism matter? First of all, what is patriotism? Patriotism is a love and devotion to your country. To me patriotism is a number of things. It can be a feeling or an action. You don't have to serve in the military to serve your country. It helps a lot, but it's not mandatory. A simple act such as picking up a coffee cup off of the side of the street is still serving your country. Patriotism can also be a feeling. You could have a feeling of patriotism when you stand with your hand over your heart while singing The Star Spangled Banner. The opportunity to be patriotic is all around us. We see patriotism almost everywhere all the time, even the smallest acts of patriotism count.

Patriotism, to me, is not only helping and serving your country but the people in it. Many people are patriotic. Patriotism isn't only serving in the military, but fully knowing what you are doing and accepting to take the risks for your country anyway as our military does every day. People who criticize the military for going to war don't get patriotism. The military is protecting people, and people are discouraging it. No one likes war, but you can't stop war in the middle. Instead United States citizens are giving their lives for people they don't know. We should honor our military even if they didn't die in battle.

Just think about patriotism for a minute. Does patriotism really matter still? Of course it does. Anyone can be a patriot if they really try and put their heart into it. As John F. Kennedy said "Don't ask what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country." So yes, patriotism does matter. It matters to honor the military. It matters to honor the veterans, those who have given their lives, and those currently deployed. Yes. Patriotism matters. And we should honor them. We should take pride in our military and in our country.