

Does Patriotism Still Matter?

By Trevor Yerkes

Patriotism epitomizes American society. It is what holds the country together through national turmoil and natural disasters. Patriotism is woven into the heart of every American, fueled by the feeling of freedom, the hearts of Americans harbor and spread it to their fellow Americans like wildfire. Being a patriot is the act of caring for the country, and actively supporting it. Patriotism defines and shapes this country; but do care and loyalty matter for the success of this country, and are its citizens still caring and loyal? Do the rise of China and the fall of American manufacturing along with economic decline lessen our appreciation for this crumbling country? Or will the dedicated citizens of America raise it from the ashes, to once again be the world's greatest country?

Our current president has stirred up some controversy. Do we need to support him in what he does? Even though his actions may not please you, my belief is that the responsibility of a patriot is to support our president, republican or democrat, religious or nonreligious. Is voting part of being a patriot? Absolutely! When you vote with a heart and passion for your country, you are exercising patriotism. Patriotism **STILL MATTERS** and it is alive and well.

Patriotism is the will to do anything for your country *and* all who live in that country. It means you are willing to die for the well-being of your country and its people. It means you vote for what's best for the country, not what's best for *your* finances, or *your* well-being. You are voting on behalf of everyone. Recently, our country has been gripped by the most defining depression in 7 decades. Do we think the president can fix that on his own? He needs our support. That's what being a patriot is all about, supporting your country.

As John F. Kennedy once said, "...And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." Three hundred million patriots can accomplish great things together. I believe we can do anything as a country united and tied together by a common emotion, patriotism.