

What Does the Price of Freedom Really Mean to People

Zo športu



Naša členka **Jana Veselá** reprezentovala Orlando Jana a jej veslársky klub, Orlando Rowing Club na Masters National Championship v Indianapolis v auguste 22 - 25, 2001.

Pretekala v troch disciplínach : single, double, fours a získala 3 medaile: zlatú, striebornú a bronzovú.

Získala titul Majsterka USA. Jana je veslárkou už 18 rokov. V roku 1992 sa stala Majsterkou Československa a jej posledný titul bol Majsterka Slovenska 1996, tesne pred jej odchodom do USA.

Jana pracuje ako účtovníčka v hoteli Radisson a popri tom trénuje 5x do týždňa. Ona a jej ORC klub sa zúčastňujú rôznych veslárskych pretekov.

Essay by Adam Dvorecky,
Winner of 1st Place in Voice of
Democracy Category of Veterans of Foreign Wars Award.

What does it mean to those of us who grew up in an already free and independent nation? Rarely do we think about the price that was paid for our freedom, our country, and rarely do we think of those who sacrificed their lives for our country. Rarely do we think about their courage and love for this great nation, who wanted it to be a better place to live for all, and rarely do we meet such great, brave, dedicated, and committed people such as our soldiers who fought for us. Those, our soldiers, who paid the price for freedom, are credited for making this nation great.

For the most part, our American soldiers expressed much love for our country. Hungry for freedom, they fought for themselves, their families, their family's families, and for all generations to come. They fought so that one day we may all live freely, in unity together, enjoying every bit of our lives being Americans. Their dedications to make our nation the best it could be never ceased, and neither did their bravery. They fought until the end, even if the end meant death. Furthermore, courage was a very important factor in our soldier's hearts. They fought with it in them all the time, no matter whether the smell of bloodshed, gunpowder, or the horrific screams of an ambush filled the air, or whether it was time to settle in for the night after a long, bloody battle. Many of us could not even hinder upon how it must have been for them in the trenches, in the first lines of the force, or in the swamps knowing that any second, they could be the next, among the thousands who were killed, to die. Only one word can explain why they fought for us, and that is courage.

Of anything else, sacrifice must be one of the hardest things to put up for anything. I feel that for the American soldiers who fought in many wars, sacrifice meant loyalty. Sacrifice was pride, but mainly it meant love. War is such a sad predicament to have to go through, but that's what the price of freedom was. And, now that freedom for all in the United States of America has been achieved, it is something to be cherished, for not all can experience life in such a gratifying land. This is a land, where much bloodshed had taken place, but also a land where, in the end, it all really paid off.

So, whenever I think about the price that was put on freedom, I

think of much hard work, sacrifice, dedication, and bloodshed. Yet, when I think of the price freedom would have today, it would be priceless. Nothing can buy our people's hard work they put up for this great country. Nothing can buy back all of the lives that were lost for the sake of our freedom. This nation was made to be free, and was made possible by many that lived before us. Now, we must preserve our country to the way it was to be, for much was done to get us where we are today. So, the next time we find ourselves proud to be Americans, we should think of all who made it possible, for those are the people who paid the price for our independence. It is a big price, a cherishing gift, a wonderful freedom.