

The Dream Called America

by Kimberly Fletcher



There is a place in Hawaii called the Kualoa Ranch. The ranch rests on 4,000 acres of some of the most breathtaking scenery on the island of Oahu. Visions of God's handiwork can be seen in the dense rain forests, open valleys, beautiful white beaches, and majestic mountains that characterize the property. Though you wouldn't know it, you have most probably seen the ranch as it has been the backdrop of many television shows and films. If you have seen Jurassic Park, Windtalkers, Pearl Harbor, Godzilla, Tears of the Sun, or 50 First Dates then you have—through moving pictures—been to the Kualoa Ranch.

While the beauty and grandeur of the ranch is breathtaking, it is actually the history of the ranch that I find most fascinating. Kualoa Ranch was established in 1850 when King Kamehameha III sold the land to a missionary doctor, who had served as his personal advisor.

For over a hundred years the ranch sustained itself in agriculture and cattle, but as time passed, the income from these sources was no longer sustainable so the family diversified the ranch and entered the tourism industry. Now people from all over the world come to see this beautiful land and visit the places where Kings were trained and where

films are made. You can still see remnants of the many movies that have been filmed there including the famous entrance gate to Jurassic Park.

You never know who you might see at the ranch. Just a few months ago, George Clooney was at the ranch scouting locations for a film he is working on. And all the while, the ranch continues to operate as a working cattle ranch.

You and I wouldn't see anything unusual or particularly unique about that. After all, businesses diversify all the time. If your business is no longer making money diversification is automatically a consideration. However, a few months ago, a group of businessmen from Japan came to visit the ranch. After hearing the history of the ranch and how they had successfully diversified into the tourism and film industries, the men were astonished. They couldn't understand how you could just change the direction of your company like that. How do you go from being a cattle ranch to being a hub for tourism and movies?

Of course the tour guide didn't understand why the whole thing shocked these businessmen so much. But that is because he, like so many Americans, didn't realize just

how uniquely American something as simple as diversification is. In Japan if you own a car industry, you always manufacture and sell cars. If business is slow you give a big pep talk to your sales and manufacturing team to try and pick up sales. You don't just decide to start selling infant car seats or build an amusement park. But people in America do it every day. Baseball players become car dealers, pharmacists become realtors, paper goods manufacturers add household cleaners to their product line. It's just another day in the life of an American. One day you're a car salesman and the next day you're a nurse.

My son Jordan spent a couple years in Idaho and while there he met a man from Sweden who owned a bakery. Jordan said the man was completely perplexed at how people in America could just become whatever they wanted. "I studied and apprenticed for fifteen years before I could become a baker," the man said. "Here in America people just wake up and say 'I'm going to be a baker today.' And then they do it."

There is a uniqueness about America that has become so commonplace to us, we don't even recognize just how unique we are. I have talked to many immigrants from other countries who have shared their feelings and impressions about America with me. I've heard them say everything from, "there is just no place like it on earth" to "you just don't know how good it is."

Kitty Werthmann, the current president of Eagle Forum in South Dakota, was born in Austria and raised in Austria. She spent seven years of her life under Hitler's rule and five years under Russian Communist rule. In 1950 Kitty came to America. The first thing

she saw when the ship came into harbor was the Statue of Liberty—an image she has never forgotten.

Kitty spent her first night in America in a hotel. The next morning she asked the concierge for directions to the nearest police station which he told her was within walking distance. Kitty walked to the police station and told the desk sergeant she wanted to register. The desk sergeant asked what she was talking about. Kitty repeated herself saying, "I want to register so you will know where I am. How will you find me," she asked, "if I break the law?"

"Don't worry Lady," the sergeant replied, "if you break the law we'll find you, now get out of here!"

Kitty walked outside quite perplexed. She looked up at the clear blue sky and puzzled, "What kind of country is this?" And then she realized. "All of a sudden," she said, "it dawned on me. It's freedom!"

And that is the beauty of America. It is what people come from countries all over the world for. They know that America is the land of opportunity. They know it is a place of peace where they are free. And when they come and experience that freedom for the first time it is something they treasure forever because they know, it isn't just a dream. It's real.

What Makes America Unique?

by Lisa Cummins



Today we are seeing history repeat itself in the form of government interfering with citizens' rights to pursue their happiness, despite the challenges.

In Salem, Oregon, Glamour Salon owner Lindsay Graham opened her business, after being closed since March (due to COVID-19), to be able to provide for her family. Graham was fined \$14,000 by Oregon's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). They originally threatened her with \$70,000. On May 7th, the Child Protective Services came to Graham's home, searched her home, and interviewed her 3-year-old child without the parents present. There is no information on what the charges were. Lindsay Graham could be defined as a Patriot!

Salon owner, Shelley Luther in Dallas, Texas, was jailed for not apologizing to the court ripping up the pink violation order, as well as being fined \$7,000. According to her attorney, Warren Norred, Luther's case is still ongoing and she could still face five more days of jail. Shelley Luther opened her salon so that she could feed her family and allow her independent salon stylists to make money for their families. She could be defined as a Patriot.

On April 10, In Philadelphia, Police officers forcibly removed a man from a city bus for not wearing a mask. The officers were not wearing masks themselves.

The idea of being an American is the ability to look after oneself and take on the consequences of our own choices. As Americans, we support the idea that we are all sovereign unto ourselves and our freedom ends where our neighbor's freedom begins. Meaning we have no authority to tell our neighbor what to do or how to act, as long as harm is not done. What we are seeing from various State Governors around our country is what the colonists in the 1700s saw from the Crown in Great Britain. Governors do not have the authority to dictate to Americans and limit their pursuit of happiness when common sense and reason are also in play.

That was the fight that our Founding Fathers took on against King George and the biggest military in the world. This idea of an individual acting on their own conscience, with a restrained government that protected God given rights, was going to be the greatest experiment that history had ever dared to take on.

So, what is it to be American?

Creed is that which is believed; it is any system of principles which are believed or professed.

Patriot – a person who loves his country and zealously supports and defends it and its interests.

Being a Patriot goes hand in hand with what being an American is all about. The beliefs of independence, rights bestowed by God to each and every one of us as individuals are upheld by the very documents that our Founding Fathers took painstaking efforts to research and debate, drawing out the best that God, through history, could provide. A grand experiment based on the individual could succeed with the help of God if no obstacles were put in their path by tyranny.

However, James Madison, father of the U.S. Constitution wrote, "If men were angels, no government would be necessary. But men are not angels, so our government will always need oversight and accountability to make sure it doesn't abuse its power." The Constitution is for all citizens of our country. We are a Republic, ruled by laws, not by men. This Constitution supports the value of the individual, but as a group "We the People" are strong in support for each other. This is what being a Patriot is all about, standing for our country AND the Constitution together, so that the individual will not be suppressed.

In our history two creeds have brought this idea together perfectly. They are as follows: The American's Creed was read into the Congressional Record by William Tyler Page:

"I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people,

for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."

– Written 1917, accepted by the United States House of Representatives on April 3, 1918.

"An American's Creed," written by Dean Alfange, a political advisor to Presidents, originally appeared in "This Week Magazine," in the early 1950s. A shortened version was later printed in Reader's Digest in the October 1952 issue, as well as the January 1954 issue. Alfange was rewarded for his essay by The Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. He wrote:

"I do not choose to be a common man. It is my right to be uncommon— if I can. I seek opportunity— not security. I do not wish to be a kept citizen, humbled and dulled by having the State look after me. I want to take the calculated risk; to dream and to build, to fail and to succeed. I refuse to barter incentive for a dole. I prefer the challenges of life to the guaranteed existence; the thrill of fulfillment to the stale calm of Utopia. I will not trade freedom for beneficence nor my dignity for a handout. I will never cower before any master nor bend to any threat. It is my heritage to stand erect, proud and unafraid; to think and act for myself, enjoy the benefit

of my creations and to face the world boldly and say, this I have done. All this is what it means to be an American."

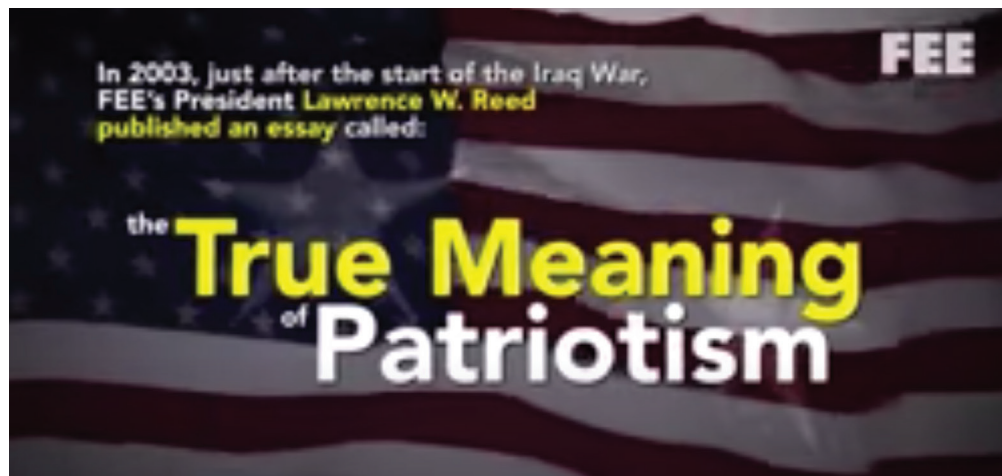
The most wonderful thing about being a Patriot and having a creed, is that the two support each other. The law supports the people, and the people support the supreme law of the land. There is not a conflict. They are in harmony, in unity with each other! Our

deepest gratitude to our Founding Fathers and the Patriots throughout these last two centuries, led by God, should be passed on to our posterity. And for over 200 hundred years, America has been guided by the original Constitution, the longest standing form of government in history! It is this uniqueness that must be preserved one generation at a time!

The True Meaning of Patriotism

by Lawrence W. Reed

Watch the following video from Foundation for Economic Education.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBYuHsK1RNI>



American Exceptionalism

by Dennis Prager



Watch the following video on American Exceptionalism.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymsd8_XjFuc



Bono

at Georgetown university

by Paul David Hewson (Bono)



Watch the following video (from 8:40 -10:15), and discuss the questions below:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5PXBjwzaBY>



Discussion Questions

- ★ *What makes America what America is?*
- ★ *The material above highlights ideas of rights, equality, knowledge of what is good government, opportunity for financial growth and liberty to change careers and work at something you love, an established government that doesn't intervene in your personal life but instead allows you to take maximum responsibility for individual actions, and freedom to become the best we can be. From this material, or from your own thoughts, what does it mean to be a patriot?*
- ★ *When you consider what it would be like to live without the privileges of freedom, how do you feel and what are your thoughts?*
- ★ *What role does law and the constitution play in the greatness of America? What is the great experiment of America? What does Dennis Prager say is the greatest threat to America? Why do you love America?*