

John Geighly

The Price Of Liberty and Freedom

How does one weigh the above title of this essay. Should it be measured by the many lives and deaths that were taken to achieve it? I think not. Through out the history of these United States there have been many factors in play.

To start, at the beginning there were no Veterans. They were a collage of "all people" wanting the same. Freedom! Whether it be from injustice, political, social, or religious it all started to shape and form our country.

You start learning about Liberty and Freedom in your own home. Bits and pieces here and there. Some grasp the importance of this at a younger age than some. Perhaps through a family member that was in our armed forces, that it may be they were injured or even death. The toll that is seen in your loved ones face can never fully be described. Only photographic memories of what one felt and saw on that day or what they went thru can they understand its depth.

I know only by hearing stories told from family members who were in our military from WWII, Korean War and Vietnam. Both of my grandfathers, great uncle, and two uncles served our country. I would sit there and listen to their personal experience of being in that war. The sacrifice that they had seen and felt I could never be able to fully grasp - only that if it wasn't for the men and women who served then and now and also in the future I wouldn't know Liberty and Freedom today.

Liberty another word for "free" is something that I will treasure more valuable than any other possession that I have. The price has been paid for by our father fathers and our mothers mother.

To these Veterans- myself and our nation we owe them the greatest respect for their sacrifice. THANK YOU can be verbal or monetary. You can show it by supporting local or national veterans groups that exist in our country by many different ways.

My maternal grandfather John E. Coleman joined the army at the age of 15 to be with his older brother Donald Coleman of Troy. He changed his birth certificate year he was born to be able to join. My grandmother Lena Coleman has shown this to me. He served five full years during WWII and was shot 3 times at different battles. I have his dog tags which he wore for all those years hanging in my bedroom along with his badges of honor and Purple Heart awarded. We even have his basic platoon picture that was taken when he finished his training. My grandmother has two telegraphs that were sent to my grandfathers mother about being wounded from the government. There is also a picture of my grandpa in the Troy paper and a small article about his wounds and talking about the Battle of Saipan and that "It was a tough nut to crack but we cracked her. Many boys gave their lives and many were wounded, but that is the price we pay for victory." He was very proud of God and the country he served.

It is with great honor that I write this essay on Liberty and Freedom to you and your organization. In doing so is my way of honoring you Veterans of Lansingburgh. So to all the veterans that have served our nation over the generations I John D. Gerighty say THANK YOU.