

Scott Morrissey

THE PRICE OF LIBERTY AND FREEDOM

Freedom and liberty are the core values of our American society today and I view them as standing side by side and supporting one another. One cannot have freedom without liberty and neither one of these privileges or ideals could be a reality without justice. Looking down through history we can see this has only been the case for the past 200 years when our founding forefathers signed the Declaration of Independence in July of 1776. Therefore we must start here when thanking Americans for paving for us the long and treacherous road to independence which we so freely enjoy today.

I have a personal and vested interest in the ideals of liberty and freedom as my grandfather served in W.W. II with great honor and dignity. Although he passed away over 10 years ago, I will always remember the war stories he would incorporate into life lessons when talking to me; always with the deepest of sincerity and insight. He would often put his hand on my shoulder and tell me “never to take anything for granted” and to always “work your hardest for what is right and what you believe in”. His examples were endless and he would often end our discussion with telling me that someday I would understand. He would often explain to me that freedom always comes at a price and because I have had the luxury of freedom my entire life, I would really have to find and seek out my own meaning of it. He would always end our discussions by chuckling and

smiling, telling me that I really would understand some day and when I did he hoped it was his words that resonated with me providing the depth of such insight.

I can now clearly see that both liberty and freedom allow for independence and for each one of us to live as individuals. Freedom builds individuality and the right to branch out and grow in one's own creative way. I believe that freedom gives us both the right and duty to move beyond the "status-quo" and out of our comfortable zones and into a forward direction of our choosing.

We can write our own story in this country, we are not pre-determined, we are not stifled, we are not in bondage or limited in our life decisions. We can be, and should be empowered individuals with the creativity to allow us to use the tools of our free mind to choose our religion, to choose our schools, to choose our leaders! Each and every day we can continue to grow and broaden our horizons moving towards our own defined purpose in life. The future is ours for the choosing because of freedom; we must at all costs continue to preserve and cherish it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all veterans both living and deceased, and our current service men and women across the world for fighting for, and maintaining our precious rights of freedom and liberty. I would also like to that this opportunity to thank the Veterans Association for giving me the privilege of contemplating and writing on this topic, as it has brought my grandfathers words to life for me. God Bless America and all of us!