

*“The Price of Liberty and Freedom”*

Liberty and Freedom; Americans all agree that these values are the foundation of our nation, but what exactly do they mean?

**1,009,018** > This is the number, as of today, of the men and women who died in the wars that the United States fought in to protect our Freedom and Liberty. **1,052,415** > Is the number of persons in the year 2007 alone that obtained legal permanent resident status to live a free life, here in the United States. This is what freedom and liberty is all about, people and a lifestyle.

All of these people believe that Freedom and Liberty is so important that they either died or changed their lives to live as free human beings. Patrick Henry said, *“Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me Liberty or give me death!”*

Our founding fathers understood the principles of Liberty and Freedom, most paid Liberty’s highest price, their lives. Sure the price of Freedom and Liberty is high, but how many people would give anything for a day, an hour or even a minute to live as a free person?

My grandfather, Andrew Dolan, who was born in Lansingburgh believed so much in Freedom and Liberty that he fought in three wars (World War II, Korean War and the

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Vietnam War), so my father and I could live as free men. He served many years in the Navy and then many more in the Army, before retiring from the Service with a total of twenty years. Even his wife, my grandmother, served as a WAC during the war, giving birth to their first child in Okinawa while serving to protect our great country. My other grandfather never served in active duty, but instead was active in the National Guard, 205<sup>th</sup> Division for 8 years. As you can see, I never lacked of people telling me how important our freedom is.

The price for Freedom and Liberty isn't a dollar amount, its people's actions, education and mostly blood which is the price tag. Action is, we must never sit back, but stand forcefully against any thing or anyone who threatens our Freedom. Education, we must teach people about prejudice, bigotry and diversity to protect the freedoms of Americans. Blood, the most costly of all, but necessary, this price has been paid by so many already to defend our Freedom and Liberty.

So please do not take your Rights, Freedom and Liberty for Granted. Your Freedom is worth living for, fighting for and even dying for. My grandparents believed this, my parents believe this, and I believe this. How about you?