

## How I Honor The American Flag

To me, being an American means I have freedom, clean water, food, and fantastic opportunities. It is important not to take these opportunities for granted and show our appreciation by honoring the American flag. When I think about the flag, I think of my grandfather who served in the Marine Corps, as a sniper and brig chaser. He served four deployments to Sanadamingo and Vietnam. My grandpa knew he was risking his life but wanted to for his country. He reminds me that America is one of the greatest countries in the world, and other countries know we will help them in their time of need. The reason America is so great is because people like my grandpa who put their lives on the line.

It is important to honor the the sacrifices soldiers make by honoring the flag. When I see the flag, I think of how the thirteen stripes symbolize the thirteen colonies so we do not forget where we came from and how the colonists fought for their freedom. When I hear the "Star Spangled Banner," I think about how Francis Scott Key wrote it at Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. The British could not knock Fort McHenry down, and at the end, the "flag was still there." America was a very strong country even at its worst time, and the flag stood strong and brave with the soldiers.

There are many ways to honor the flag. My family flies the flag in front of our house. I stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and place my hand over my heart to show respect. I thank veterans for their service and think about their sacrifices. I appreciate my freedom to visit other countries and someday vote for good people that can make our country better. When I serve others, such as packing food for the less fortunate, I also feel like I am honoring the flag. Seeing the expressions on the people's faces made me realize, you do not have to be rich or famous to make a huge difference. You just have to put a little heart into what you do.

When I think of veterans I think of people, who put their heart and soul into this country. I am so lucky that my grandpa came home from the war, because many people did not, and this is why I will always respect the American flag.