

What Price is Freedom

Ed's Note: The local WJW sponsored an essay contest "Voice of Democracy" at Rockcastle County High School. The following are the three winning essays by Lindsey Parsons, Tami Taylor and Stephen Hopkins.

What Price Freedom?

First Place - Lindsey Parsons
Freedom is seven simple characters strategically placed to create great meaning. Freedom rolls off the tongue so easily for many of us. Freedom rings through the prairies and "from every mountain side" in our country. But mostly, freedom is something for which we should thank so many Americans before us.

As far back as I can recall, I have learned about great heroes in our history. George Washington crossed the Delaware, Ulysses S. Grant defended the Union in the Civil War, and George Patton was a great tank commander in World War II. But, what about the unsung heroes? What about those soldiers that we never learned about? Haven't they played just as important a role in gaining our country's freedom as all the others? Where has their honor been laid out there in the hearts of those who knew and loved them?

The silent heroes of our country's freedom are the young men, the boys, who left their homes to fight for something many of them never got to experience. The teenagers, still with clear memories of their childhood, who were shoved into an adult life; the fresh faced adolescence who transformed into old men as they watched their companion die around them. These are the people we should praise and honor and never forget every time we sing of the Stars and Stripes.

It seems the image that appears in one's mind when he or she thinks of the war is soldiers, some of a middle-aged, graying man. Washington, Grant, Patton and most of the others children learn about in school fit this image exactly. The fact is, though, that this was false for many. The people dressed in America's colors, fighting for our rights, were boys: boys who were taken out of high school and trained for military action. Boys who would be playing video games or passing football if they lived in this modern society. But instead they became a soldier, sailor,

pilot or marine to struggle for the freedom that we take for granted today.

These young men are the reason I live in a free country. I am hungry, I reason I can eat when I am hungry, I am warm before I get too cold, I can worship in a church of my choice. They are why I can safely learn in school, I can eat dinner in peace with my family and I am happy more than I am sad. To these young, of years gone by, I owe all the thanks and gratitude my heart can hold.

As we proceed further into the future and further away from the memories of these young men, I hope our appreciation for freedom does not deteriorate. Our world moves at a rapid pace, and we get caught up in all the hustle and bustle of everything around us. We mustn't forget, in the midst of our busy lives, to respect our God-given and man-defended right of freedom. Take time to listen to the words of the Pledge of Allegiance and be silent during the few minutes it takes for the national anthem to play. Too many men have died under the American flag for it to be an item we simply glance at as we pass. It brings to mind a question that is asked before every baseball game: "Oh say does that star-spangled banner yet wave, 'O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave'?"

Our land is free only because of the brave who struggled to make it that way. The Star-Spangled Banner may wave in the breezes of America, but it is with the vigor and excitement that it should be! When we understand how special our rights are and give thanks to those who helped make them that way, then our flag can flow with a newfound, zealous attitude.

Freedom may be seven characters strategically placed, but it is made up of much more heart and soul than any character can possess. Each point or rounded corner of those seven letters were formed more perfectly by the young men who set their lives aside, some forever, to make our United States of America a better place to live. Freedom was and always will be a strong word, but, when one sees the people that stand behind it, he realizes the appreciation that should be given each time the word is spoken.

What Price Freedom?

2nd Place - Tami Taylor

"It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press. It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech. It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate. It is the soldier, who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag."

Father Dennis Edward O'Brien, Lt. Col., USMC

For over two centuries, citizens of the United States of America have enjoyed their personal freedoms. Unlike so many other less fortunate nations, ours has granted us certain unalienable rights. Within the boundaries of the law, we are free to live as we choose. We may worship as of any religion, voice our opinions and even hold organized protests against our own government.

To people from other areas of the world, freedoms such as these are left only to the wishful imagination. Every aspect of their lives is controlled by a small group of people. They are defenseless, spending their days

dreaming of land such as the United States.

While so many people are left wondering how they might be able to purchase their liberty, we as Americans are oblivious to the price that is continuously paid for our freedom. When our country first began, the tiny population of the colonies rose against the entire might of the British military to gain independence. They fought with honor and pride, and many paid with their lives. The Revolutionary War was the foundation for the way we live today.

Over the next two hundred years, the United States was engaged in several more conflicts. During the Civil War, many soldiers' lives, from both sides, were lost for the veracious battle over states' rights and freedom of the slaves. In World War I and II, our soldiers spent years in foreign lands defending not only the United States, but also the people of nations that were unknown to most of them. Then there was the Korean War, often referred to as the Forgotten War. Although it was said to be fought between 1950 and 1953, its conflict still continues today.

From these wars, and many others,

hundreds of thousands of American lives have been lost. Not only were our soldiers killed in action but thousands were taken as prisoners of war or declared missing in action. Unfortunately, even though it is now peace time, there are still many lives that remain unaccounted for. According to many sources there are American soldiers, young and old, spread out all over the world, spending their day-to-day lives in captivity.

Not only have thousands of men and women given their lives for our freedom, but there are also many that have survived. Limbs, sight and the ability to lead normal lives have all been lost by many. There are also those who have never fought directly in combat. Without a doubt though, these soldiers deserve the same recognition, for they entered the military with the knowledge that their lives could be taken at any time to preserve the rights and privileges of those they serve.

Sadly, the bravery of those soldiers who risk their own lives to serve others is often forgotten. Not only do they defend the lives of their family but also the lives of people they have never even encountered. All the while,

they are aware that many of those people may not ever appreciate what they have given them.

What is the price of freedom? It is the blood that has been shed by our Veterans and that will continue to be shed by those soldiers, sailors and airmen with the will to sacrifice their lives so that we all may enjoy our own. God bless them all.

What Price Freedom?

3rd Place - Stephen Hopkins
Freedom seems to be a word that is thrown around rather loosely in America today. According to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution we are free to speak and write without fear, even if it is to the detriment of others. How often do we read a tabloid article that defames a person? The article is obviously a lie, but we read on, allowing our ears to be tickled by pointless gossip at the expense of someone else's character. Who is paying for this freedom, and is it the word's original intent?

We pride ourselves in the American dedication of freedom, but it seems as if we have forgotten the

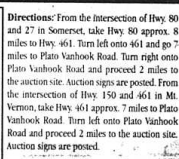
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ABSOLUTE Auction

of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Price's

76 ACRE FARM M/L IN TRACTS — HOUSE — FARM MACHINERY
VEHICLE — PERSONAL PROPERTY — TOBACCO BASE

Saturday, December 2, 2000 at 10:00 a.m.



Mr. and Mrs. Price are retired and are building a new home and no longer have a need for this farm. Therefore, they have authorized our firm to sell it for the absolute high dollar.

Tract 1 - Contains 7.739 acres and has 317.05 feet of frontage along Plato Vanhook Road. It is improved with the above pictured 2 story aluminum sided/brick home. This home features baseboard electric heat and offers living room, kitchen/dining combination w/ cabinets, 2 bedrooms, bath, utility and 2 sunrooms on first floor, as well as 2 bedrooms upstairs. Also has a full basement with family room and fireplace w/ Buck stone insert.

This tract is also improved with a 28x32 car detached block garage. It also has a stock/tobacco combination barn that measures 32x72 with a 14x72 shed and a 12x72 shed on each side.

Tract 2 - Contains 49.903 acres and is improved with a 28x60 hay shed. There is also a 36x40 tobacco barn and a pond for stock water on this tract. This tract is mostly cleared land and would make excellent pastureland. It has 226.46 feet of frontage along Plato Vanhook Road. City water is available.

Tract 3 - Contains 7.415 acres and has 251.65 feet of frontage along Plato Vanhook Road. This tract is all flat grassland and would make an excellent baby farm. City water is available.

Tract 4 - Contains 2.044 acres and has 292.91 feet of frontage along Plato Vanhook Road. This tract is all cleared and has septic system and electric. This would be an ideal spot for a house or mobile home.

Tract 5 - Contains 6.63 acres and has 164.60 feet of frontage along Plato Vanhook Road. This property is all wooded with a little extra room for privacy and would make an excellent building site. City water is available.

Tract 6 - Contains 2.126 acres and has 164.66 feet of frontage along Plato Vanhook Road. This tract is all wooded area.

Tract 7 - Contains 0.729 acres and has 164.66 feet of frontage along Plato Vanhook Road. This tract is all wooded area. When combined, there is a total of 76.6 acres, more or less. These tracts will be sold separately and then combined, selling in the manner that reflects the best return for the seller.

A basic tobacco allotment in the amount of 761 lbs. will also be selling separate from the real estate.

We will also be selling 60 round bales of hay that is stored in the barn.

Vehicles to be sold: 1974 Chevrolet Chevelle pickup truck with camper top - 84,000 miles.

Farm Machinery to be sold includes: 1994 model 595 Case International tractor - 353 hours • 990 David Brown Case International tractor - 4454 hours with Bush Hog front-end loader • New Holland round baler - 846 • New Holland 477 Hay Bine • New Holland 451 Mowing Machine • New Holland 256 Rake • New Holland 273 square baler • New Idea Manure Spreader • GTS 520 Tractor • Puxar Renovator - 9 ft. • Case Mowing Machine - 3 pt. Hitch fertilizer seed combination • 3 pt. Hitch Bush Hog brand wood splitter • drag type disc - 8 ft. • hay spear • Oliver plows - 2 1/2" turning plow • 14" flatbed farm wagon • 16" flatbed farm wagon • Lira corn grinder - antique • cultipacker • tobacco sticks.

Personal Property to be sold includes: Antique stone creep feeder • Lincoln 225 welder • grinder • Beuna Vista saddle and bridle • Solid State push mower • 4 bunker feeders • fuel barrel with pump • garden tiller • extension ladder • extension cord • electric fence boxes • old vice • several gates • 3 water troughs • old tobacco baskets • used tractor tires - two 16.9 14-30 • shovels • rakes • several hand tools • Frigidaire refrigerator • microwave • old refrigerator • Frigidaire electric stove • old table • double wash tub • couch and chair • old rocker • like new Singer sewing machine • twin bed • old quilt • cream cans • very old magazine.

Auctioneer's Note: Whether you're in the market for a small tract for building a more spacious tract for a baby farm, or the farm in its entirety, be sure to attend this absolute auction on Saturday, December 2nd at 10 a.m. Remember, it's an absolute auction and the last bid will buy regardless of price.

Terms: Real estate: 20% down day of sale, balance due in 30 days. Tobacco base, farm machinery, hay and personal property: Cash or good check day of sale. Note: The purchaser of a single family residence, built before 1978, has a maximum of 10 days to inspect the property for the presence of lead base paint, the period for inspection begins November 22nd through December 1st. All bidders must sign a waiver of the 10 days post sale inspection period.

Auctioneer/Broker/Seller Disclaimer: The information contained herein is believed to be correct to the best of the auctioneer's knowledge. The information is being furnished for the bidder's convenience and it is the responsibility of the bidder to determine the information contained is accurate and complete. The property is being sold in its as is condition.

For additional information, or free brochure, contact Ford Brothers, Inc. at 800-526-9430.

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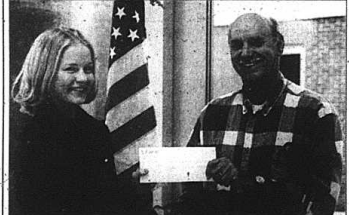
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Top photo: Alfred McNew presents Lindsey Parsons with the first place prize for the essay contest "Voice for Democracy". Middle photo: Mr. McNew presents Tami Taylor the second place prize and bottom photo: Stephen Hopkins won third place.