



Something to cherish: Patriotism

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When I was a younger, I made the mistake of singing other stuff or messing around during the playing of the national anthem at the Daytona Tortugas games we would go watch weekly. At this age around 5-6 I just thought it was another song because I understood the pledge from school but never the star-spangled banner. My father who served in the Navy for a couple of years and got discharged due to an injury one day got furious and that night I learned something I would carry with me too this day. That night is when he really taught me the meaning of the Anthem and what patriotism really means to him. After all of that I also formulated my own definition which I plan to share to you today. Currently as a musician when I hear the star-spangled banner, I get goosebumps as it is played. But why do I get goosebumps? Being someone who has studied music for 90% of my life I have found that there is always a bigger picture to songs. This idea spans across all the nations in the world also as they follow the idea of having a national anthem and doing a motion to show gratitude for it. For example, normally when the Star-Spangled Banner is played everyone stands up and either puts their hand over their heart, takes a ball cap off or even puts their arms behind there back. But I want to highlight two major sections and that is American examples of patriotism and Foeign examples of patriotism. Then after this I will give my idea of Patriotism and is okay if you don't agree because that is the great thing about this term.

American Patriotism:

Americas Past:

This country has protected us all our life and given us to freedom to do what we want and for the future generations to experience the same. There was one time I really wanted to serve because being an American citizen and American born I take a lot of pride in this country. The national Anthem and the pledge are something I have all ways had cherished throughout my life. I felt like the topic of having patriotism in your country really didn't get highlighted until with conflict in the east. If my country was to go to war tomorrow and I became a soldier I wouldn't want people to know me as that line cook or college kid. I would want them to see me as a patriot and someone who takes patriotism in their



country. I would home that my fell Americans would do to go into the Air Force after high school, but I had to find a different path due to an unforeseen surgery. Just having patriotism to me doesn't mean just joining the army or standing for the pledge there are tons of ways to show patriotism and people can see it in their own ways. Patriotism is one of those words that the meaning really depends on how you interrupt it. But here is my definition of patriotism as a musician, American, and a Civilian. Patriotism is something that



you hold close to you at the highest and lowest of times. It is the act of showing passion for something like an Award, Accomplishments or in this case your Country. But being prideful is unique because you can show it in different ways. You can stand up for a song, tell someone about the greatness in your

country, or if conflict happens in the future try to be part of the solution rather than someone who makes it worst. Now you may ask why is the star-spangled banner important to you Austin? This is because I have studied music in the past this is the first song you study Francis Scott Key was a lawyer who went out on a merchant ship to negotiate for a doctor on deaths row. The doctor known as William Beanes was a prisoner from not treating and providing food or water to British soldiers. They would be stuck out at sea from the 5th to the 13th of September 1814. The three sailors watched as the morning of the 12th the British Armada roll into the Baltimore harbor. They watched as the found to capture Fort McHenry if the fort was last that would give the British control over Baltimore. While the battle unfolded over seven days Key watched and wrote a poem. This was known as the “Defense of Fort M’Henry” keys brother-in-law would take this poem and transform it into a song that we now know as the Star-Spangled Banner. Congress would make it the national anthem in the early 20th century. Growing



up you may have heard of the American field bands they used to have around the time American became a country. These normally consisted of at least a snare drum and a trumpet, and they would march in playing patriotic songs. They would also normally initiate a battle between two groups with a charge like song. This was a way of showing their patriotism by playing their songs within the mist of a battle and outside of it. It was common around the war times that in the morning the flag was raised to Taps which is another American patriotism song. Taps is a bugle anthem that stands for the fallen and is normally these days played at funerals and memorials. In 1862 US General Butterfield was camped at Harris landing in Virginia where they would play a bugle call to signal to soldiers it was time to get some shut eye. He took this tune and created something more as it was meant to be for the fallen and this tune spread like a wildfire throughout the confederacy. The name taps come from the original nighttime call as it ended with three taps on the drum. Also, whenever soldiers march in time they march to taps which could have also influenced the name. And this isn't just the Americans tons of other countries have had different ways and even in the Viking era some of them carried drums which they played going into ship battles. Another example that peoples are commonly familiar with is also the Irish and their bagpipes. Bagpipes is an instrument that the Irish use commonly for all of these national songs.



Foreign Patriotism

Current Patriotism: Ukrainian



On 2-27-22 the world changed as the Russian Confederacy attacked Ukraine a small independent country to Russia's south. While majority of the videos I saw were terrible, there were some that filled me with joy. On the 4th

day of the invasion, I watched a story of a family on Fox News. Their apartment was hit with a missile and while the exterior of the apartment didn't take serious damage, they lost their window where rubbish flew in. The next morning a woman while cleaning her apartment crying sang a song. This song she sang with the patriotism of her country as it was their national anthem. This video on that day would trend over the #russianinvasion itself. Seeing someone who was suffering what they were going through and maintaining patriotism high is a hard spot for me. We also saw brave acts of heroism as even the parliament of Ukraine took their arms to defend their rights. President Zelenskyy himself even



armored up to fight off the Russian army denying a way out provided by the United States of America for him and his family. People may rag on him being a comedian or law lacking president, but I call him a patriot of his country. Over these past couple weeks, he has shown that he cares for the future of Ukraine and wants to have



a free future. Even though the numbers stand close to 1 Ukrainian to 10 Russians this will not stop their patriotism for their country. With them not being a NATO protected country, we will supply but this is their fight with no one really in their corner to help them. While this is

happening his opposer has a believed motive in doing this as he wants to rebuild the Soviet Union that once ruled the middle east. Don't get me wrong what he is doing is not a good thing, but he is prideful in what he is creating. Vladimir Putin is the president of the Russian Confederation which has aggressed into Ukraine. He wanted to bring back what Stalin



and Hitler created which is this powerful war machine that can't be stopped. But Putin in his mind thought it was going to be a clean sweep of the country but thought wrong. Tons of Ukrainians showed patriotism by staying and fighting for their freedom and country. Most of the southern cities have seen mass destruction and they are staying to fight till there last breath.

National Sporting Events



People can show their patriotism in many ways one being at bigger event it is not uncommon to see people with huge flags or event even big signs being held up to support their country. One event I would like to highlight that happens every two to four years

is the Olympics. The Olympics is a sports competition that holds over 109 Medal Events across 15 sports. Every country that is a part of the Olympics gets a team that can participate in every event to compete for gold, silver, and bronze metals. Some of the sports include Hockey, Curling, Figure Skating, Tennis, and so much more. There are a ton of country's that end up joining in the Olympics also like Russia, U.S., Brazil and even smaller countries like East Timor and Haiti. They all play under their country to compete for the most medals and whoever has the most at the end of the event is the winning country. But throughout the event they always wear their colors and before they play at event stand for their country's national anthem. They represent their country. There are even national sports finals for sports like baseball,



soccer(football), and football. For example, around the All-Star break in the MLB along with their all-star team the MLB will draft a whole other team for team USA. They compete for the national championship in the following weeks against countries like China and Russia.

North Korea

What Truly is Patriotism to Me?

Patriotism is a term that has a wide meaning because also involves have loyalty and pride. When you here about patriotism, it is normally associated with helping other civilians. An example would be a military member who is serving their country



so we can leave freely. If they ever go into war, they fight they show loyalty to the US and to defend the civilians for what the U.S stands for and their independence in some cases in the past. Other countries have the same

ideas surrounding patriotism and the idea but have some variations. I think it another part of this reflection which really isn't highlighted it the fact that we need to respect other ways of patriotism also. Because even in times were a country's leaders make

an unthoughtful call and they stand for there country we need to respect that. At the end of the day, they are just believing in their leader and what they stand for in their country. Like mentioned above there are multiple ways of showing this and it can vary in the country.

But in America there are multiple ways that you can



show patriotism. One of the main ways that someone can show patriotism is serving.

Now what does that mean exactly? Serving in the

armed forces that help protect the US like the Army, Navy, Airforce, Marines, or the

coast guard. But like with me stuff happens and it doesn't

always work out for everybody. But that

doesn't mean that you can still help to support

these people. Some ways of showing patriotism

could even be donating to a veteran foundation. But

that is only a few ways I believe you can show patriotism for

your country and the next is something you learn young. Another thing that doesn't

involve serving is honoring stuff like the national anthems to attending an event on

Memorial Day to remember the past. Not just Memorial Day but also other holidays

like veterans' day or event about tragedies from the past like Pearl harbor. Little like

these can show your love for your country. But like stated before everyone has

different meanings of what patriotism is or not. Some people may agree or deny what

someone's definition is about a topic like this but that should still be accepted. So, I

ask you what your idea behind this topic is and has what is stated about something

you would agree with.

