

“What Patriotism Means To Me”

By: Trinh Chu

Patriotism, to me, means faith, strength, and love for one's country. Patriotism is faith, those who have patriotism trust the actions and ideologies of their country without an inkling of doubt because they know that no matter what happens, they can always find comfort, security, and protection from their homeland. Patriotism is also strength, not a brute strength based on muscles, but an internal strength fueled by pride and devotion. Most of all, patriotism is love for your country, a love so powerful and immaculate that it moves you to do everything to serve and protect your country. President John F. Kennedy once said, “Ask not what your country could do for you, but what you could do for your country,” and to me this is the essence of patriotism because it explores the true extent of one's faith, strength, and love for their country. Patriotism is more than just hanging the American flag on your side of your house; it is service to your community, to your people, and most of all, service to your nation.

Growing up I was constantly bullied for being a foreigner, my peers would make fun of my name, of my family, and of my heritage. They told me that America was for people who had patriotism, something I did not have because this was not my country. Their words cut me deeper than any knife could because they did not understand the love I felt for this great land. This was the country that gave my parents refuge, the country that gave me the opportunity to succeed, the country that gave me the freedom to be who I am; how could I not love this country? While some people may say that patriotism is just for natural born citizens of the country, I believe that anyone could have patriotism for this country if they have faith and trust in its morals, acquire strength and courage from its principles, and sacrifice everything necessary to defend and protect its future.