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The Bill of Rights and Me

On December 15 of 1791, the first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America were ratified. We know these amendments as the Bill of Rights, and throughout history they have been a solid foundation for the invaluable liberties of American people.

The Bill of Rights stands for the freedoms of Americans everywhere. In it we find that we have unalienable rights such as freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom for just trials, freedom to possess arms and more. In our country, we the people can decide what to believe, say, and do without an oppressive government always peering over our shoulder. The government cannot call anyone who angers it a criminal, only those who disobey our nation's fair laws.

Moreover, the Bill of Rights is not only simple text on a page, it is the rights and liberties of every person inscribed for generations after us to read. It ensures just and equal rights to every American citizen, regardless of background or nationality. It protects my liberties, and because I am aware of my rights, I can respond readily when tyrants threaten them. I can be the next person to speak out and remind Americans of the words Patrick Henry boldly proclaimed at the birth of our nation: "Give me liberty or give me death!"

I can remember that the Bill of Rights is as living as our freedom and it is vital to preserve both.

Furthermore, we should not take these rights we have for granted. Freedom is not free. Thousands of people have taken up Patrick Henry's battle cry as their own, and our precious liberties are soaked in the blood of heroes who died rather than sacrifice freedom. They have given much for these rights. How will we respond to their selfless actions?

The Bill of Rights protects our freedoms. It stands for the rights of every person, rights paid for by the very lives of patriots. We should never take this for granted.

That's what the Bill of Rights is to me.