

#4



Being a True Patriot

What does it mean to be a true patriot? “I’m thinking patriotism means – other things. I think it’s like doing something for others, you know for the people in your country. Someone isn’t patriotic just because they say they are. They need to be doing something. Like the people that gave blood at our school or like when soldiers go away to fight for our freedom” (Mckenna 18). Everyone can be a patriot if they are willing. During September 11, 2001, many firefighters, police officers and paramedics went into the burning building knowing there was a high probability they would not make it back out. This fear proved true for many patriots: 72 police officers and 343 firefighters and paramedics in total did not come out of the towers that day. Later, 341 firefighters, paramedics, and civilian support staff died from post-September 11 illnesses.

There was a fourth plane aside from the three planes that crashed into the Twin Towers and Pentagon, known as Flight 93. Flight 93 was likely headed toward the White House or the United States Capitol, but the passengers on the plane took over and crashed it in a field in Pennsylvania instead of the White House or the U.S. Capital. Those passengers, firefighters, police officers, and paramedics were all patriots because they actually did something. Their patriotism showed when they sacrificed their lives for others. They sacrificed their lives for our country. They were true patriots. In the book “Saving Dr. Warren... ‘A True Patriot’” by Jeffrey J. Mckenna, it mainly talked about the Revolutionary War, and how the Revolutionary War all started:

“A large man with dark skin stepped out to lead the confrontation. He hit a Redcoat with a stick, ‘Fire Lobsterback! Come on, Fire!’ The bigger man next to Steve shouted, “Hit the filthy Lobsterback again, Crispus!” The soldier turned his

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musket sideways and shoved the man named Crispus back into the crowd... 'Aye, I don't know allz the dead, but I do know a slimy Lobsterback shot Crispus Attuks point blank!'... "Aye. He gotz some of uz to come over when we heard the barber's prentice being hacked by the King's Regulars. Cripus stood right in front of a Lobsterback when the filthy swine fired straightz into the crowd!... The fight he had witnessed was called the Boston Massacre" (Mckenna 112-120).

The Boston Massacre took place on March 5, 1770 and was the very first blood shed of the Revolutionary War; it was also the very beginning of the Revolutionary War. Crispus Attucks was a patriot because he risked his life for the country. Crispus Attucks death raged all of the citizens causing The Boston Tea Party.

Dr. Warren was a true patriot as well "[Dr. Warren] You are the President of the Provincial Congress as well as the Chairman of this Committee of Safety. The idea of you being on the Hill tomorrow is ridiculous!" (Mckenna, 240). Dr. Warren had many extraordinary skills. He was a great leader, patriot, doctor, and friend. He was also a man in high places: "These statements are true. However, I am also to be commissioned General. As a General, the men I command must know I am willing to accompany them into battle and that I am willing to pay the same price for this nation that they are being asked to pay.'... "My men need me, and I swear before God, I will not let them down" (Mckenna 241). This demonstrates that Dr. Warren was loyal to his team and trustworthy. "More than a general, you are the Chairman of this Committee of Safety and the selected President of the Provincial Congress. If you leave in the morning for the redoubt you will be the most rash, reckless, and ridiculed leader we could have chosen! You, Sir Joseph Warren, will not be worthy of the titles you bear or the trust that has

been placed on you” (Mckenna 241). For example, the groups that Dr. Warren was in were very high, and exceedingly strong groups which were an honor to be a part of:

“34 *The Provincial Congress* was a law-making body that Massachusetts and other colonies formed in opposition to the ruling British government. Dr. Warren was the head of this governing assembly. 35 *The Committee of Safety* was a group in Massachusetts and other colonies that worked to root out those who were not loyal to American independence and they worked to prepare the colony for war if necessary” (Mckenna 240).

For instance, Dr. Warren was a part of these important groups ,but if he decided to go into battle the next day and fight with his men, the titles that he had been given would have been removed. Dr. Warren was a true patriot because he was willing to fight alongside his men at the cost of his titles, life, and trust from his companions. Dr. Warren was a true patriot because he sacrificed everything, so he could be a good general and fight alongside his men.

My grandfather and great-grandfather were both patriots because my great-grandfather served in the Navy, and my grandfather served in the army in Vietnam. There are many people like Dr. Warren, Crispus Attucks, firefighters, police officers, paramedics, passengers, soldiers, and pedestrians who decided that they would do extra for the country, to help the country, and to make it safer and better even at the cost of their own lives. They were and still are true patriots. These people, they are the people who were and still are patriots if we are willing to remember their sacrifice for the United States of America. A true patriot is someone who is willing to sacrifice their life for our country. This is what being a true patriot means.