

VFW: Voice of Democracy 2017-2018

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## American History: Our Hope For The Future

### *The Pursuit of Happiness:*

Lying in the grass on a hill as the wind blows through my hair and the sun shines down on my face, smiling. My dreams and hopes flow through my subconscious weaving a tapestry of the future that I wish to become reality.

### *Antithesis:*

Why must I lie here, I wonder, knowing that my path to happiness is that of an escalator. Why must I be blessed with an escalator while others around me have ladders, stairways, and elevators. Why must some be forced to climb a single rope only to have that rope cut by those who were blessed with an elevator.

Why must a tainted history persist in our current society. The successes of the present to be threatened by the the failures of the past over and over into eternity. Throughout the history of our nation, we have been struggling to rectify the attempts of American citizens to strip liberty and freedom from their fellow citizens. Believing, falsely, that the happiness another must come from the taking away of our own happiness. Happiness is self-creating, re-creating. It does not function under the standard laws of the universe that hold a constant supply to be distributed and redistributed.

### *Creation:*

America was built on a doctrine of the American Dream. The opportunity of happiness and life for all Americans. Despite this foundation, the building of the current America has strayed from this foundation, spiraling off into other directions that fracture this foundation. Yet, this foundation has allowed America to continue to grow. If America grows in a direction that strays from the doctrine, that growth will be rebuilt in alignment with the foundation of liberty thus allowing more growth to continue atop the stable structure that emerged in the beginning and continues to grow into the future.

Benjamin Franklin once wrote, "I consent, Sir, to this Constitution because I expect no better, and because I am not sure, that it is not the best."

America is by no means perfect, and it has never been. There has never been and never will be a perfect society because humans are not perfect, but America continuously strives to be as close to a society where all can live with life, liberty, and the opportunity of happiness. America strives to reach the ideals it was and still is based on with the hope of fully embodying those ideals for all of its citizens. There is still much construction that must be done, but, as a

country, America has been and continues to be an inspiration and a pioneer into the building of a country based on such noble ideals.

*Ideals:*

The doctrine of America is one that gives strength to citizens to lay down their lives for the promotion of that doctrine. The belief in life and liberty for all, neither some nor none, has propelled our nation from its beginnings and through its greatest struggles. The love of America and its ideals of life, liberty, and happiness, allow veterans to persist in their service with the knowledge that they are allowing these life-giving ideals to persist. Veterans can rest assured in knowing that their service and even sacrifice will allow their children, and their children's children, and all the children in America to grow up in a country where they are free.

*The Achievement of Happiness:*

The hope for the future rests on the dream of happiness. The hope of happiness. The happiness that stems from living in a country where one is free, where you have liberty. A country worth protecting. A country with ideals worth protecting.

Our country is united incompletely. Many people in our country struggle through their lives due to systematic attempts to remove and eliminate their happiness. To prevent them from achieving their happiness. Life is unlimited; liberty is unlimited; happiness is unlimited. My hope is that every person –regardless of any difference in race, sex, gender, sexuality, religion, ethnicity, age, disability and beyond– every single person in America is able to live, is able to live under liberty, is able to live under liberty and with happiness. My hope for the future, is that all people know they have a future, a future of happiness, of liberty, and of life, in America.