

November Patriotic Instruction

Brothers,

As we come to a pivotal point in our country's history, one might think I would take the time today to talk about your civic duties as Americans and Brothers. That I might take this time to push how important it is for you to vote this coming election day and how every vote matters. That I should sit here and say how we should help our fellow Brothers and neighbors out who can't make it to a polling location by giving them a ride, or offering to watch children so they can go themselves. All those things are true, and that would be the easy bet that I would dedicate my November Patriotic Instruction to. Well we all should know by now I tend to march to the beat of my own drum, and you have plenty of other people in society telling you to vote, so I wanted to take this time to talk about something that is often overlooked by many and that is the importance of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Growing up, the Pledge of Allegiance was something we said every morning before school, it was said during the morning announcements. To many in my classes, it was just a 31-word obligation that they had to say every day to start their day. To me and some other Patriotic souls in my school, it was a time in which we could reflect on how lucky we are to live in the United States. A country in which you are surrounded by opportunities, where a person can come from nothing, work their tail off, and become successful. A nation in which many strive to fulfill an ideal that others will come here to obtain and that is the American Dream.

Some may say that this is an outdated thought, that the American Dream does not exist anymore. To those people I say look around your state, cities, towns and neighborhoods, there are people that we come across in our everyday life that are living the American Dream. It could be your neighbor in his mid to late fifties, that joined the military after being kicked out of his home after graduating high school that now owns his own company. It could be the young lady in her thirties who is providing you care at your local hospital, whose first job after high school was as a custodial worker at that same hospital, and is now a Nurse Practitioner and is in doing everything in her power to help you recover. It could be your coworker or classmate, who is the same age as you, whose parents immigrated here from a war-torn country so that their yet to be born family could have a better life. All of these are real stories of people I have had the pleasure of coming across in my life, all of which were at different points of their lives, and their American Dreams were all different, but every one of them was doing everything in their power to achieve it.

I was recently reminded of this when I witnessed my 5-year-old son in his weekly Monday morning kindergarten remote learning session. After the teacher takes attendance, and says hello to all her students, she leads Chace's class in the Pledge of Allegiance, and I instinctively stand up and look towards the flag in my office. What I then noticed gave me goose bumps and brought tears to my eyes when I looked down and saw that Chace had stood up from his desk, with his hand over his heart and was looking at the flag, reciting "I Pledge Allegiance, to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the Republic, for which it stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all". These words are not just an empty 31 word poem we say at the beginning of every meeting, it is each one of us reaffirming that we are proud to live in the United States. That we will strive to ensure that this country does not become divided and that we will fight for liberty and justice for all Americans, for that is a large part of the American Dream. Now, go enjoy your left over Halloween candy, or for me

eating Chace's, go and do your civic duty and vote and fly that American flag proudly on your house or on your lawn, for together we will strengthen our communities, towns, cities, states and our country.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Br. Ben Frail, PDC
National Patriotic Instructor