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A New Kind Of Patriotism

By Jim Wilks

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by: **Jim Wilks**

No matter who you voted for in the last election, or even who your parents voted for in past elections, we are all still American citizens today and will be tomorrow.

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That statement means something different to each and every one of us who call these great United States of America our home. We are all different in some ways while we are so similar in our love of our country and its' emblems like our anthems and flags. It is imperative that we reunite under our common flag, sing our anthems and get back to being the best and most respected country in the world.

Take a look around the world. Even in countries that would do us harm, there are individuals who want what we have. They sense our freedoms and our liberties. These people envy what we take for granted. Are we willing to throw away what we have because we are divided along political lines?

What we need to do now is concentrate on a new kind of patriotism.

"A new kind of patriotism" What does that mean? Perhaps it is time that the citizens of our great country agree to put our differences aside for the good of the country. We need to forge a common view of where American is heading. It is up to us to work for an American that we can all feel proud of.

What will be our legacy? History has seen us as a kind and generous nation. Strength and prosperity are required for us to afford the luxury of kindness and generosity. To maintain this strength and prosperity, we will have to unite and become one nation again. The backbone of this unification will be our patriotism.

A New Kind Of Patriotism

Our patriotism has always been strong. It has fortified us in many battles both military and spiritual. Our founding fathers knew what patriotism was. It has always been a great insult to question publicly another mans patriotism. We must look deep inside of ourselves to raise a new kind of patriotic feeling that all Americans can feel as one. A patriotism that Americans will once again hold high and question only in the darkest of times and situation.

Who knows where patriotism grows?

Our next battleground will require some new heroes and heroines to show themselves. Each and every one of us has the power to effect change in those around us. A simple display of your American pride may not convince someone to change his or her convictions but it may very well plant the seed that blossoms week or months later. Our troops know where patriotism grows. It grows in every hard fought battle for liberty and justice. It casts a shadow on every country that we help around the world. Our troops know it. Shouldn't we?

How do you show your American pride?

We should not feel ashamed of our love of country. We should feel free and comfortable to express it. Is that not the spirit of what America was founded upon?

American patriots display their pride in many different ways. Some patriots where red, white and blue. Some patriotic souls where old glory flag as pins, hats, t-shirts and even bake flag shaped cookies. The point is, if you feel patriotic pride then show it! It is not hard to find plenty of great patriotic gifts and patriotic gift ideas. There are many patriotic Web sites and store. Some of these Web sites even offer free patriotic stuff. Now that's showing patriotic pride. What ever you do, showing your pride is just the first step. Sharing your pride is next. Try encouraging friends and neighbors to show their American patriotism by buying a bunch of American flag lapel pins and passing them out to everyone that you see in a day.

Others may not understand or approve your displaying pride. This will provide a great opportunity for the patriotic "bridge-building" that we so desperately need in this country. If someone gives you a hard time for wearing a star and stripes jacket or playing basketball with a red, white and blue, basketball, then just remind them that no matter who you voted for in the last election, or even who your parents voted for in past elections, we are all still American citizens today and will be tomorrow.

– Show your American pride!

Jim Wilson is an entrepenure and born again American patriot who writes and lives in northern Washington state.

Children Patriots

By Rexanne Mancini

Children Patriots by Rexanne Mancini

This year will be an especially poignant Independence Day for the United States on July 4. While there has been a surge in patriotism since September 11, we all need to maintain a sense of pride and love for our country whether we are at war or living in peace.

Children need to feel a sense of belonging, in their family, their classrooms and their country. They thrive in an environment of respect, compassion and stability. If we teach our kids love, honor, compassion and respect for their country as well as for their fellow man, they will not only be graced by a sense of patriotism, they will become better citizens.

One of our greatest challenges as parents is to raise our children to be healthy, honorable adults. A sense of patriotism is a good reinforcement of honor and ethics.

Our babies learn kindness from our gentle touch; they learn healthy self-esteem by our praise and respect; they learn to maintain their precious bodies with good food and regular exercise. They learn these living examples from their caretakers and schools. We are also responsible for teaching them to respect and be kind to others, to keep their community clean and to trust that their country will defend and protect them as best it can. I firmly believe they should be taught to revere their country's flag and all it stands for.

My children have already been told that, while it might be "legal" to burn the stars and stripes as an expression of individual freedom, they would be hard-pressed to get past Mom if they ever entertained the idea!

Children need to know they are a very large and integral part of their country's make up. They are the future parents and government that will uphold the morals and ethics inherited from these same entities.

Is it too much to ask that our children be patriotic, honor their flag and stand up for what's right and good about their country? I don't think so.

It is our job to instill a sense of patriotism in their young hearts, offering them the opportunity to love and honor their country and its flag. In doing so, these same feelings will transfer to mankind and the world.

As much as we want our children to love their country, we also need to recognize the importance of global relationships. Setting good examples of patriotism should, in turn, teach our kids that every person counts, no matter where they live or who they might be.

Rexanne Mancini is the mother of two daughters. She maintains an extensive yet informal parenting

and family web site, Rexanne.com - <http://www.rexanne.com> –Visit her site for good advice, award-winning Internet holiday pages and some humor to help you cope. Subscribe to her free newsletter, Rexanne's Web Review, for a monthly dose of Rexanne:

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