

Matthew Kubacki

What does it mean to be a patriot? We have all probably been asked this question at one point or another, but very few of us have given it deeper thought. Most of the time when we think of a patriot the first thing that comes to our mind is a soldier decorated in medals or General Washington crossing the Delaware. While all of these images are correct, I believe that the true meaning of being a patriot is much deeper than just glory on the battlefield. When we look at the qualities we see in a patriot we notice that all of them did what he or she did because of self-sacrifice and an unconditional love for their country. A true patriot will never hesitate in a time of need and will always stay 110% loyal to his God and his country.

Patriotism is not defined by the greatness of the action, but the willingness to carry it out thinking only of others. Some of the most heroic patriots walk right before our eyes every day. They are those who give up their time for others by simply helping out in their community. Many of these people include the ones who work the soup kitchen or are the volunteer firemen. Police officers and doctors should also not be forgotten, for they too fight an endless battle against crime and protecting the well-being of others. Essentially, patriots are those who work for the greater good and put themselves at risk fighting for our protection.

In the end, being a patriot does not just mean fighting in the armed forces or receiving a medal of honor, but to put others before yourself in order to protect the hard earned freedom paid by the blood of our fathers. Patriots are our everyday heroes who will never stop fighting to maintain peace, justice and tranquility for all.