



**V.F.W. Post 9143
and
Ladies Auxiliary**

**1045 Dahlonega Highway
Cumming, Georgia 30040**

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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**Patriot's Pen Essay Contest
2015 - 2016**

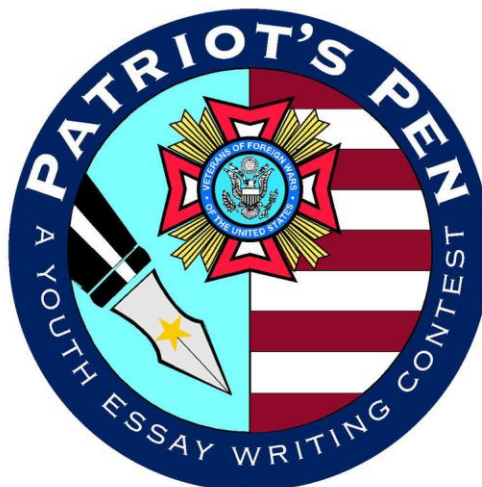
“What Freedom Means to Me”

Madison Elizabeth Anglin

NAME

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SCHOOL / ORGANIZATION



What Freedom Means to Me

To me, freedom is my right to choose. Whether it is, who I want to vote for, what I want to wear, what religion I choose, where I want to live or even what school I go to. Thinking about freedom, fills me with a sense of hope and pride, knowing that I live in a Nation that I love.

We live in a nation that doesn't force people into the military, but instead, people choose to join the military. They choose to fight for our country and for all those other countries that cannot fight for themselves. I see boundless images of all the courageous soldiers who have fought for and who are still fighting for my freedoms today. Freedom is a beautiful thing that we should all thankful grateful for.

Too many times, we take our freedom for granted. We forget in some countries, you are forced to wear certain clothing or forbidden to practice a certain religion. Sometimes this is done by gunpoint and threats.

As our former President, Dwight D. Eisenhower stated, "May the light of freedom, coming to all darkened lands, flame brightly—until at last the darkness is no more," he was saying that to all of the nations that are not free, to overcome what darkness they had been in and step into the light and become free. That one day, all of the "darkened" lands become free, and that we finally unite as a free world. They are breathing, but they are not alive. They are not alive in freedom.

I am willing to say that there is a little girl out there that has no rights because of what religion she believes in or even the color of her skin. She doesn't know what freedom is. To her, it doesn't even exist.