

Who Are Today's Patriots

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Who is a patriot? The definition of a patriot is “a person who loves or supports one’s country”. Some examples of patriots are soldiers, doctors, nurses, firefighters, the president, the military, schools, and volunteers who help in disasters like Hurricane Katrina.

You are sitting at the table at the fire station eating your cheerios, when all of a sudden the alarm goes off. You picture the fire, probably started by the stove. But this day is different, very different. Today, two planes have crashed into the Twin Towers. You must go into the rubble and debris to rescue victims of this horrific event. You don’t know if you will get burned or trapped, but you go in anyway. Will you live another moment or many years to come?

Murky water is swimming around you up to your knees. You see dead bodies floating, dogs and cats on top of roofs waiting for their owners to come back, and parents carrying their children and suitcases while wading through the water. What can you do? Where do you start? You know that these people in Louisiana need more than food and money. They need a clean up crew, and that is where you should start. The smell is strong enough to knock you down, and the stuff in the water will make you sick, but you help them anyway.

It’s almost time to leave school-just two more minutes. Your teacher starts explaining about a project that she is putting together. She would like you to bring in food, school supplies, and other essential items a child would need. The items that you bring in will be donated to the children of Iraq who are too poor to buy school supplies and new clothes. At their school, they have no desks, chairs, or even textbooks. The bell rings and you know that tomorrow you will bring in as much as you can because you care.

Who is a patriot? A student, a fire fighter, a volunteer, the president? Anyone is a patriot as long as he/she follow this quote by John F. Kennedy, “And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you— ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America can do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.”