

*“We can’t all be Washingtons, but we can all be patriots.”*

*Charles F. Browne*

I am a Patriot. You see me every day. I am a part of your every day life. I am a member of a proud army of Americans. I am today’s Patriot.

Who am I? I am your great-grandfather who fought in World War II. I am your grandfather who fought in the Korean War. I am your father who fought in Vietnam. I am your brother who is fighting in Iraq. I fight for your freedom and safety. Who am I? I am this country’s best and brightest. I am today’s Patriot.

*“Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.”*

*Adlai Stevenson*

I am a Patriot. I stand up for what is right. I inspired our nation on 9/11. I work to keep crime out of our neighborhoods. I keep unsafe drivers off our streets. I run into burning buildings while you are running out. I go to work when I am called to duty even if I am sick or hurt. I go to work because who will be there if I am not? I am a firefighter. I am a policeman. I am today’s Patriot.

*“A man’s country is not a certain area of land, of mountains, rivers, and woods, but it is a principle, and patriotism is loyalty to that principle.”*

*George William Curtis*

I am a Patriot. I help feed and care for the poor. I teach our children. I nurse our elderly, our vulnerable. I work in a soup kitchen, a homeless shelter. I will never be rich, but my life is enriched by the work I do. When people ask me why I do these things, I answer: “Because of all that my God and Country have given me. I want to give something back.” I work to make this country better, to make our future brighter. I am today’s Patriot.

*“Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”*

*John F. Kennedy*

I am a Patriot. I don’t know yet if I will be a soldier, a sailor, a policeman or president. I don’t know if I’ll be a teacher or a doctor. I do know that I will find a way to serve my country. I am Charlie Welling. I am 13 years old. I am tomorrow’s Patriot.