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Patriotism in America has been on the decline in recent years. Some blame it on politics and others blame it on societal breakdowns in religion, ethics, and values. Whichever the reason, I believe Patriotism can work its way back into people’s lives.

More and more Americans are outwardly displaying hateful feelings and ungrateful behavior toward America. A lot of this can be attributed to their uncontrollable or self-induced angst about President Trump, or in the case of some immigrants, the hate and loathing that has been planted in their hearts and minds via their foreign customs and beliefs about Americans and their way of life. In fact, in some communities citizens are not allowed to display the American flag because people from other countries with different religious beliefs find it offensive.

After spending some time in poor or oppressed countries, I am extremely grateful to be an American. There was a time I probably took my freedom and security for granted but not anymore. I’ve seen the grass on the other side and

it’s not always green. Here in America, I get to do what I want (lawfully), live where I want, vote for who I want, eat what I want, go where I want, shop where I want, drive what I want, and be what I want to include even changing my sex. Okay, I’m not transforming myself from Jeff to Jenn but could if I really wanted to without worrying about being thrown off the top of a building. I’ve got a pretty good deal living here in America and so do you!

Don’t hate America because your preferred candidate wasn’t elected. Political candidates and parties rise and fall in cycles. Hang tight and your preferences will win out next time or the time after. I understand some of you are concerned to the point of anxiety or outrage, but violent protests and damage of private or public property are not remedies for your feelings. Rather, patience, understanding, and an open mind are.

During this trying time in America, we all, in some way, should be an American Patriot. Whether that means volunteering part of our life to serve in the military, helping out at events honoring our Veterans, teaching our

children to be good citizens, proudly displaying the American flag on our house, or even cheering for American athletes competing in the Olympics, we should do something that displays our pride in and loyalty to America. Enjoy the 4th of July fireworks show, play patriotic tunes in a band, or sing along with the National Anthem during a sporting event--whichever it is, be a proud Patriot.

America will understandably remain divided on politics and issues. Not everyone will ever see eye-to-eye on everything but more should see eye-to-eye about America and her way of life. Despite our different skin colors, beliefs, opinions, and styles, we all should bleed the same three colors: red, white, and blue! We should never be afraid or ashamed to wave the American flag.

Much like in New England, where Patriots are expected to “do their job” and win Super Bowls, in America, Patriots should “do their part” to keep America strong, thriving, safe, and a place that is the greatest place in the world to live.

~ The End ~