

Freedom Isn't Free ✓

Name: Katie Glas

Grade: 6th

School: Clay Middle School

Freedom isn't free. Millions of people go to war for freedom every day. This is their belief, desire, and their job. Most military personnel temporarily leave behind their families, lives and jobs. Periodically they died for our freedom. Occasionally, it destroys people's lives indefinitely. In 1776, many strong leaders gathered and signed the Declaration of Independence. The United States has been at war since then.

An important and personal time for my family was 1940. There was a Federal law that stated men had to register for the military draft. Adolph Hitler was making a lot of noise in Germany and was threatening to rule the world. My Great Uncle was the first in his family of five boys to be drafted into Army 1941. That was a very sad day for our family. Great Uncle Bill wasn't mad at anybody, and the idea of going into combat against another human being wasn't something he really wanted to do. Great Uncle Bill was assigned to Camp Walters, Texas. He thought this was a bummer compared to his regular life back home Indianapolis. Military hours were 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. in the hot Texas sun. He was extremely homesick, depressed and 1,000 miles away from home. He was looking forward to Christmas, which was not meant to be

that year, due to the bombing of Pearl Harbor December ,7th, 1941.

Great Uncle Bill was reassigned to Honolulu, Hawaii, after leaving San Francisco on a vintage World War 1, U.S.S Grant ship. The waters were rough. There were many swells and storms. The soldiers were packed in like a can of sardines, next to the engines grinding day and night, which made sleeping impossible. His troop spent 21 months in the Hawaiian Islands. After Hawaiian Islands they were off to Guadalcanal, mosquito-infested, swamp area and Malaria hole in the Marshall Chain of Islands. He stated it was miserable. Training was done in jungles and swamp lands and was wet most of the time, especially their shoes and feet. On Christmas day 1944, they enjoyed a holiday dinner of bologna and spam. Great uncle Bill was away from home 44-½ months, he was one of the lucky soldiers that came home alive.

Men and women are called to service their country only to die or have anxieties of war. Freedom is precious and priceless to us. Not every country is free. Innocent lives are taken every day because someone just wants to be powerful. Free is possible through the voluntary risks taken and sacrifices made by the military personnel.