

Katie Phan

Grade: 8, Clay Middle School

America's Heart Beats On

America has a heart, and it is beating. Our country is alive and teeming with ambition in its eyes. The United States of America will not fall; we will only rise back up, dusting off every last piece of doubt that clouds our minds. We are strong, we are fierce. We are America, the home of the brave.

Our country is breathing, living out every war and golden era, century by century. It is not possible without our veterans, America's savior. We all deeply appreciate the agonizing labor, time, and courage that each one of our veterans commits to. Not only that, imagine the amount of American citizens in the United States who are willing to put forth their lives in order for their country to live on. The risks of losing everything with meaning are greater than ever once you promise yourself on the land you love. Injuries and death are among the many options that could come forth in battle, yet our veterans took that risk. They opened up a door that could lead onto a life-changing series of events in order to protect America's beating heart. Our veterans display the ideal definition of "selfless".

If America had a heart, a brain, or a pair of eyes, or a mouth, we would know one thing: Our country would be beaming a confident look of dignity. All the exhausting training and almost never-ending work will pay off in the end, and it will be worth it. The proof is in the eye of our family members, friends, strangers, and citizens of our strong country. While we cherish moments in our normal lives, America's soldiers are defending us, day by day. Lives are lost, and the grieving continues. It takes a generous amount of rare courage to live like that, with family members tucked away underneath the sleeves of your uniform, while they're hoping that you come home out of harm's way.

Marines, Army, Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard all have a trait in common: the ability to protect the land they love selflessly and with courage. America is truly the home of the brave. With our veterans supporting us each and every single step of the way, we can all hear America's heart beats on. Our heroes protect our home, and in return, America honors those heroes every single year. Thank you, Veterans; you are the reason why America is alive today.