



Lauren Stemple

The America I Believe In

Harry S. Truman once said, "America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand." His quote perfectly summarizes the America I believe in. I am very fortunate to be a great-granddaughter of a World War II veteran who experienced Pearl Harbor and lived to tell the story. Up until a year ago, when he passed away, I used to visit my great-grandpa every week. While I was at his apartment, he would tell me the stories from the war. My favorite story was about the day the war began and how his life and the lives of all Americans were forever changed. The courage that Harry S. Truman spoke of came from those men and women who were and are serving our country. My grandpa talked about the courage it took for the sailors who were unharmed that morning to help their fellow shipmates. He was one of the sailors who was assigned to help pull fallen service men out of the oil-soaked harbor after they had been propelled over board by the bombs that were dropping like a heavy rain.

Along with courage, imagination is another attribute that has made America so great. To illustrate, our scientists, companies, and small businesses have been leaders in the development of new technologies that are used throughout the world. From putting the first man on the moon to creating the Internet, America has proven its ingenuity.

Even throughout difficult times, America has been able to show its determination in the face of adversity. For example, when the airplanes flew into the Twin Towers on 9/11, it appeared that our way of life was threatened. Although we were attacked, Americans pulled together to help the people who were affected. Overnight, America's patriotism soared. From flying flags in front of our homes to donating money to The Red Cross, we were finding ways to help one another.

America's story is like a great novel with some amazing chapters and some tragic ones. I hope the America I believe in will continue to have courage, imagination, and determination for all of its existence.