

Patriotism

a love of country...

...and the willingness
to sacrifice for it

The 1828 Webster Dictionary defines *patriotism* as “Love of one’s country; the passion which aims to serve one’s country, either in defending it from invasion, or protecting its rights and maintaining its laws and institutions in vigor and purity. Patriotism is the characteristic of a good citizen, the noblest passion that animates a man in the character of a citizen.”

Americans enjoy a level of freedom virtually unparalleled in history, and with that freedom comes great responsibility. From the Revolutionary War through the civil conflicts of the twentieth century, Americans have been proud to live in “the Land of the Free” and to embrace the possibilities of dreams while protecting the poor and defenseless.

Our great symbol of freedom, the American flag, flies at the top of the US Marine Corps Memorial of Iwo Jima, as well as on every schoolhouse, courthouse, and town hall, and on homes and businesses across the nation. The colors of the flag represent these virtues: red for courage, blue for justice, white for purity and innocence.

Spirit of America Band honors the virtues, the dedication, and the ingenuity that make up this nation of freedom keepers.





Some patriotic music comes from neither military nor historical events, but from our own love of invention and recreation. Sousa came up with a fitting portrayal of America's own *National Game*: baseball.





In 1941, before America entered World War II, President Roosevelt famously spoke of the four freedoms entitled to all peoples: **freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.**

Speak celebrates this first freedom. The blend of voices and percussion explores the joys and dangers of this basic right to “speak freely.”

Speak / *Speak up!* / *Speak out!* / *Speak for!* / *Speak against!*

Speak joyfully / *Speak clearly* / *Speak glowingly* / *Speak pridefully*

Speak with life / *Speak honestly* / *Speak with abandon*

Speak truthfully / *Speak earnestly* / *Speak spontaneously!*

Speak timidly / *Speak prudently* / *with discretion*
softly / *Speak carefully* / *advisedly* / *Speak formally*

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Speak angrily! / *Speak meanly!* / *Speak stubbornly!*
Speak madly! *Frankly, ardently, bluntly, honestly speak!*
Speak, speak . . . loudly! / *Shhhhhhhhhhh!*

This is the land where I can speak! / *Heartily, tersely, nervously, perfectly, helpfully, mercifully, candidly, openly, surely, fearlessly, plainly, forcefully, mightily, fairly, strongly, boldly.*

Speak freely!

