

## Reagan's View on Americanism

Our past presidents have had many different perspectives on Americanism. Americanism is the ideals of loyalty, patriotism, religious freedom, courage, integrity, devotion to the future of the United States, and allegiance to the principles that led our founding fathers to form this country. President Ronald Reagan believed that our freedom is not permanent and needs to be continuously fought for. He also believed that anyone can become an American, no matter where you come from, which is unique to the United States of America. Ronald Reagan's view on Americanism was that we must fight for freedom, support our military, and teach the next generation the importance of keeping our freedom. He also stressed and believed in the importance of the Constitution and all it provides to Americans. Our loyalty to this country is shown everyday by saying the pledge of allegiance, singing the national anthem at sporting events, and through other acts of patriotism. The freedom we have today is fought for everyday by our military and even ourselves. The businesses we support, what and who we vote for, and what we protest against help us keep our freedom.

Freedom is not free. Our founding fathers fought for our freedom during the founding of our country and today, our freedom is fought for by our military. President Ronald Reagan believed freedom "must be fought for, protected, and handed on" to our children to do the same. In order to protect freedom from extinction, we cannot forget that we have to fight for it and protect it always. As Americans, our duty to our country is to protect it and support those fighting for our freedom and fight for it ourselves as if our life depended on it. We must fight for our freedom everyday by exercising our rights, voting to keep our freedoms, protesting for what we believe in, and supporting businesses and companies that hold our same beliefs. We must also uphold our allegiance to the amendments in The Constitution and make sure we protect the rights

we were given which our founding fathers believe were inalienable and God-given. Ronald Reagan believed that our constitution was like an agreement with ourselves and all of mankind.

Our presidents believed that freedom is something that needs to be taught to the next generation to ensure it stays as one of America's most important values. Without the knowledge of how freedom is secured, the next generation will not know the importance of fighting for it. Preserving America and standing for the ideals of Americanism are some of the most important parts of being an American. Teaching kids what America stands for, what the principals of the Constitution are, and teaching them that we need to protect and fight for it everyday is also a truly vital part in preserving our country for the next generation. Ronald Reagan believed that without teaching the next generation the importance of protecting and fighting for our freedom, then "one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

The Constitution holds the founding principles and rights of our country. And it held extremely great importance to Ronald Reagan. In his State of the Union speeches, he referred to the Constitution 1,270 times, more than any other President in the previous 50 years. That shows how important Americanism was to Ronald Reagan and it sets an example to how important the Constitution should be to every American. The Constitution and the rights it gives us are so important to our country and how we are able to live freely. Showing allegiance to our Constitution is not the only way to show Americanism. Celebrating Fourth of July, displaying our flag, and supporting our troops can all let us express how important our country is to us.

Everyday we show our loyalty to America by saying the pledge of allegiance, singing the national anthem at sporting events, rodeos, and concerts, and displaying our nation's flag. Every Fourth of July we show our patriotism by celebrating the gaining of our independence for

America. We display our flag colors in fireworks, clothing, and decorations through parades and parties. Showing our patriotism and loyalty to our country through our holidays unites every American from anywhere and with any political view. Being an American is something to be proud of and showing our loyalty makes us stronger and shows just how much we value our freedom.

Ronald Reagan also said that “You can go to live in Germany or Turkey or Japan, but you cannot become a German, a Turk, or a Japanese. But anyone, from any corner of the Earth, can come to live in America and become an American.” Being an American is an honor and should not be taken lightly. Our freedom is special and letting others and their families create a better life here is why America was founded. America was founded by people from different countries and backgrounds and welcoming others from around the world, as long as they come in the right way and become a citizen legally, is part of Americanism and being an American.

As a teen, I see how important it is that everyone, especially in my generation, learn about Americanism and show it. Without people voting, fighting for our rights, being loyal to our country, and learning the importance of our freedom and how to keep it, our future generations may not see the freedom that we have today. Getting teens involved in our government through internships with local politicians or even just civics classes in school to show them how important Americanism is is vital for the future of our country. Without my generation learning the importance of it, the future generations will have no one to teach it to them. The future of our country is up to us and we must fight for everything we have today to make tomorrow a better place for the future generations to come.