

“The America I Believe In”

By Jenna Ulrich

Picture this. You're in a city, at the very top of the building looking down at all the people. You can just make out an Italian man rushing to make his meeting. You look over to the bakery and see an African American woman going to grab a treat with her family and the man that just moved from France walking down the street with children hanging off of him, asking questions about his hometown. The city is so diverse, full of people whose parents, grandparents, great grandparents, or even the person them self, moved to America. Why? Because we're free. Because we have good schools that provide opportunities for them to do something more. Because here they can be anything they want.

When we think of America one of the first things that pop into our mind is the American flag, but the familiar stars and stripes weren't always the symbol of our country. The flag was changed 29 times since 1777. Then on August 21, 1959 President Eisenhower changed it to what we see today. 50 stars representing the 50 states and 13 stripes that stand for the original 13 colonies.

On September 11, 2001, disaster struck our country. Terrorists hijacked four planes and flew two into the Twin Towers, one into the pentagon, and attempted to fly one into the White House. It shook our country and 2,996 people lost their lives that day. But even though we weren't sure we could recover, we did. Because our country is strong and even through the roughest of times, we stayed positive and came back stronger than ever. We united as a country and beat the terrorists.

Freedom isn't something that comes without a price. In fact, hundreds of years ago our founding fathers fought Britain for freedom. 200 years later that freedom still stands. Did you know that 87/196 countries are completely free? That still leaves half of the world that doesn't get to decide what job they want, how many kids to have, or even what color clothes to wear in some cases.

The America I believe in is the America with equal rights. The America that gives everyone a chance. The America where I know that any one of the kids that sit in the classroom with me every day could be the next president. That's the America I believe in.