

### The Great Fight

In the summer of '76,  
a country was born.  
Freed from tyranny,  
And new allegiance sworn.

Old Glory replaced  
the old Union Jack.  
America was formed;  
There was no going back.

Just thirteen years later,  
Washington was made  
The first of 45 presidents,  
Of the great United States.

The War of 1812 arose;  
America's House was burned,  
Key wrote his timeless song,  
By each American it was heard.

The Trail of Tears would follow,  
A walk that brought much pain.  
The Indians would suffer  
From such a cruel campaign.

America would expand,  
But not without strife.  
The Civil War erupted  
With tragic loss of life.

The slaves finally freed,  
Our president was killed.  
Americans were saddened;  
With despair they filled.

Then began the quest for suffrage,  
A goal for women's rights.  
For Anthony and Stanton,  
Fought with all their might.

And the conflict would continue,  
The start of World War I.  
Soldiers were deployed  
With a gas mask and a gun.

Chemicals used as weapons,  
Countless lives were lost.  
America would be victorious,  
But not without a cost.

With a rising fear of Communism,  
Americans in dread,  
Of those with Russian ties  
And the people labeled "Red."

Just a few years later,  
The market would collapse.  
A crisis struck at home,  
The economy in scraps.

But this was not the end.  
And with a second world war,  
There would be more carnage;  
Even more than before.

A fight against the Nazis,  
Would be no easy feat.  
But freedom would prevail,  
And hatred did retreat.

The Cold War was to last,  
For many decades to come.  
But this fight was different,  
No battles and no guns.

Cuba was no exception  
To conflict with our land.  
Missiles aimed and ready,  
Weapons in their hands.

And in the years to follow,  
There would be another fight.  
But one that was domestic:  
The fight for civil rights.

Death would strike again,  
A president blown away,  
The assassination terrible;  
Who murdered JFK?

A reverend and orator,  
A man who had a dream.  
But his life was quickly taken,  
By an action so extreme.

Troops deployed in Vietnam,  
A series of mistakes.  
America expended capital;  
It wasn't worth the stakes.

Corruption within the government:  
The scandal at Watergate.  
The attempt to hide the evidence,  
In Richard Nixon's tapes.

Berlin was still divided,  
And Reagan heard their call.  
He declared his famous words,  
"Mr. Gorbachev, Tear down this wall!"

More conflict in America,  
With riots in L.A.,  
Constant scuffles and fighting,  
The city in disarray.

And then the unforeseen occurred.  
The World Trade Center was attacked,  
Terrorists reached the planes,  
And the airlines were hijacked.

But Al Qaeda wasn't all  
And a new threat has grown  
The terrorists of ISIS  
Attacking us at home.

The country is now divided.  
Split with Red and Blue.  
But on January 20<sup>th</sup>,  
Trump made his big debut.

Congressmen quickly boycott  
When something doesn't go their way.  
Holding up nominations  
Always saying, "Nay!"

It seems that all the protests  
Will never reach an end.  
Shouting "Not my president,"  
An ever-growing trend.

Disputes over immigration,  
And Sanctuary cities,  
There's never any compromise;  
It's really quite a pity.

We simply can't stand by,  
When people break our laws.  
It doesn't matter what their reason  
Or any made up cause.

But despite all the hardship,  
And the many years of war,  
We are America,  
And we stand for more.

A country of democracy,  
Where citizens have rights.  
Knowing we are safe  
When we go to bed at night.

Protected by a military,  
Who stands to protect and serve.  
Defending the United States,  
From the front lines to reserves.

A country with the privilege  
To elect a president,  
Who will symbolize the nation,  
And all it represents.

But when America struggles,  
And the country's in pain,  
It's our duty as citizens  
To bring about change.

It's our right to vote.  
Don't let it slip away.  
Heroes fought and died,  
So we could have a say.

Of the people, by the people  
A government for all;  
That still stands for the principles  
Of Independence Hall.

No matter the suffering,  
Or the hard times we face,  
We are America,  
The world's greatest place.

In the past eight months, I have written countless essays for college applications and scholarships. In all honesty, I am tired of writing about why I chose my major, what challenges I have overcome, and what I want to be when I grow up. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to use my creativity and encouraging me to think out-of-the-box.