

## Summer 2023 Essay Competition (Charlotte Buerge)

"We sleep safely at night because rough men stand ready to visit violence on those who would harm us." Winston Churchill could not drive a better point. Our safety and well-being, especially in times like these, are secured by the work of these courageous young soldiers who mask self-need and are ready to protect our country with their lives. There is no greater honor, nor greater duty than humbly serving a place you call home. Ladies and gentlemen of Congress and of all America, this winter has been a cold one. The temperature of the world is dropping. Allies betray. Tyrants reinstate their evil reign. Attitudes of those who were once chivalrous turn icy and hostile. We are currently under threat of aggressive attack by no less than five countries on account of recent Christian reforms made by the previous president in order to emphasize our true cultural foundation. We know what we stand for and what is here for us to defend. This is why President Moore is planning to instate a policy stipulating that every able-bodied male must serve in the military for one year before the age of twenty-two. To protect our truths and our livelihood it is both wise and necessary to enforce this policy upon his inauguration.

As I am sure you have heard before, the president is fond of quoting former U. S. Attorney-General Robert F. Kenney in saying, "Since the days of Greece and Rome, when the word 'citizen' was a title of honor, we have often seen more emphasis put on the rights of citizenship than on its responsibilities." Our nation is under perilous threat because of our renewed Christian principles. We know this. God wishes His people to defend His truth and our faith as we see in 2 Peter 3:15. We also know this. It is time we take up the responsibilities of godly citizenship and protect what is ours—God's truth. What is left of the world if He is not a part of it? What is left of us if we do not hold to the faith? The nation depends on young men to physically and spiritually defend America. As a young man under the previous draft, citizen Gary Jantz says, "It is a good idea to serve your country...for the good of the country, and for the good of mankind." As a Christian man, he believes that the Word is crucial to the survival of Christianity—and the American people must save it.

In defending America's renewed values, there will come a struggle. There is always a fight in defending truths and those we love—it brings out the true courage and humility of an individual. Not only does the military offer a chance to protect our country, but it also builds virtue and good character in the men who join. Rigorous training, diligent study, and selfless acts of service shape the spirit of man as a potter shapes a lump of clay. He forms and pushes and stretches it to encourage the most beautiful shape to emerge from the mud, as God did to Job in the Bible. So in protecting one's home, a beauty of character will form in our young men and better the society in which we partake, spreading strength to everyone. Former soldier Terry Stieben tells us, "The Army made me a better man in several ways: it taught me to respect authority...to work with others to obtain goals...(and) to be aware of my surroundings in life. Now as a Christian...I am willing to give up my life for Jesus."

There are those who will say being a soldier is the ultimate sin against the law of God and peaceful human existence. It tears apart families, souls, and hearts. To that I have this to say: what is murder? They claim soldiers commit acts of murder, and God clearly forbids this. But what He forbids is an evil, selfish act of revenge or anger between one man and another, not a safeguarding of eternal truth. In the Old Testament, the Israelites fought and conquered

nation upon nation to reach the Promised Land, killing thousands by God's command. This is not murder. The new draft is our only way to keep Christianity alive in America. I urge you to think about the cost if we are attacked without ample preparation for the wickedness that could await us, and what unwillingness to fight would spell out for future Christians.

As the world falls around us, there is one way to stay strong. Every able young man must give America his due. It is imperative that this policy go into place, for the betterment of our society and the protection of our principles. Let us take up our crosses according to each of our abilities, building strength and sharing faith. I leave you all with this Psalm: "Whom have I in heaven but You? And earth has nothing I desire besides You...God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Those who are far from You will perish; You destroy all who are unfaithful to You. But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge..."