

LIVING FREE



By Carrie Tergin | Mayor

Many things come to mind when I think about #Freedom, especially honoring those who fought for and protect our freedom. I was fortunate to give a welcome at the Memorial Day service and I want to share my words with you. So for just a moment, close your eyes and see the beautiful sunshine reflecting its warmth on the large crowd gathered there in solemn respect, and the families and friends of the fallen, who honor their loved ones with a poppy placed in the wreath, with the mention of each veteran's name, and with each ringing of the bell.



"As the mayor of Jefferson City, I have the honor of welcoming you to this special Memorial Day service at the National Cemetery. I learned at a very young age, from my grandfather George, a Greek immigrant, that America is the BEST country on earth. Words alone cannot say enough to thank those in the military who have stood up for and fought for our freedoms. By being here today, your presence shows that appreciation. Let's keep the spirit of Memorial Day every day of the year. Thank a veteran, and those in active military duty. Every day. Exercise your right to vote, every time. They fought hard for these freedoms. Don't take it for granted. Remember the families of those who serve, in your prayers and in your actions. When I see our beautiful American flag I remember my grandfather, how he kissed the ground because he loved this country so much. And I remember those who gave him the freedom to kiss that ground. Let's

all teach the next generation to have that respect. For this place, for all who are buried here. I would also like to thank the City of Jefferson's Cemetery Resources Board for all they do to continue to protect and respect this place of rest and peace. Thank you all for being here today, and especially to all who have served our great country and to their families!"



As the granddaughter of a Greek immigrant, I will always remember his perspective on freedom, and how thankful I am for those freedoms. They are not automatic and they are not everywhere. Now I have a new perspective on freedom, as mayor, the second woman elected mayor in our city's history, and thinking back to a time when women did not have the right to vote. Today as we look back on those days, and on how far we've come as a country, I ask that we honor and respect all that comes with freedom, that freedom is not automatic, and neither is respect. If we respect freedom, and each other, just think of how far we'll go as a country! #FREEDOM #RESPECT #THANKFUL #MayorTergin #JCMO

One of my favorite new songs of the summer is from Dierks Bentley's new "Black" album, and it's called Freedom. I love the whole song but here's one of my favorite lines:

FREEDOM

That flag on a soldier's sleeve
All around the world they
know what it means
And they all just wanna little
piece of freedom
That flag on a soldier's sleeve
All around the world they
know what it means
And they all want just a little
piece of this freedom, yeah!!

