

# What America means to me

By Gerard Louis Power, IV

America is the land of opportunity and possibilities. America means living free, having a democracy, and most importantly, the right of all citizens to cast their votes for who will lead our country.

I have been fortunate to be able to travel and see many parts of our beautiful country. One of my favorite places in America is Keystone, Colorado. I took skiing lessons there and two friends came with me too. I spent time in Big Sky, Montana and got to see Yellowstone National Park. I am proud that our great country preserves and protects these great wide, open spaces. We must all support the preservation of these uniquely American destinations.

I have been to parts of the east coast and many southern states. And I have learned that all Americans, no matter where they live, all want the same thing – freedom, peace, and a good life. I really would like to go to Washington D.C. If I went there I would be able to learn and appreciate more about America by visiting the museums and monuments. As a Catholic, it would mean a lot to me to visit the tomb of John F. Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery.

But America does have its challenges. The economy is crashing, people are losing jobs, more people cannot get health care, and we are at war. But as Americans, we have the right to vote and decide who our leaders will be. I am proud that we can decide

who will do the best job meeting these challenges.

The candidacy of Barack Obama has inspired me and made me even more proud to be an American. He grew up without any money, paid his way to college, graduated from Harvard Law School, and hopefully will be our next president. That is the American dream and the possibilities that come with being an American. He gives me hope that our challenges will be met and we will continue to be great and strong.

America means being able to vote for our local leaders too. I hope Tom Daley will be elected as my congressman. He has been able to explain to me how Congress works and what he can do to help my community. And most importantly, I want my mom, Jean Power, to win the position of Collin County Commissioner. She is a community leader and cares deeply about the citizens. I respect and honor Rep. Sam Johnson's service and sacrifice for our country, but it is time for change. I think that America would be better with these people running our country.

America is the greatest country in the world. People from around the globe want to be here to enjoy our freedom, our hope, and our possibilities. Our ability to vote is a right that our founding fathers fought for and one that we should all exercise. I am proud to be an American.

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