

# **“What does the Lone Sailor Statue represent to Me?”**

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To me, the Lone Sailor Statue represents several things. Primarily he evokes patriotism and other strong emotions related to being a proud American. Living in America is wonderful. Too often we take for granted the countless benefits of living in this great country. Freedom is by far the greatest part of being an American, but equally important as appreciating it is understanding that it wasn't free. Hundreds of thousands of men and women sacrificed their lives so that we could all enjoy what is so distinctly American. It may just be me, but the joy and gratitude associated with patriotism is almost overwhelming. I'm sure it sounds cliché but words really cannot describe this particular emotion. These distinct, intrinsically American emotions are what flood me when I see the Lone Sailor Statue.

When I was 12 or so, still very patriotic but unable to grasp the entirety of what it meant, I heard a song called “God Bless the U.S.A.”, by Lee Greenwood. The first time I heard this song it literally brought a tear to my eye. It is so difficult to express exactly what I feel when I hear this song, but without question they are some of the strongest emotions I've ever experienced. It is not a feeling of malice toward anyone, it is simply a feeling of gratitude and pride associated with being an American. Without hesitation I would stand beside the “Lone Sailor” and fight for these rights.

The Lone Sailor Statue brings back another thought associated with patriotism. September 11, 2001, perhaps the most unforgettable memory in decades, evoked feelings of fear from me, since I was only 11. I just didn't understand it. As I grew older, things became more and more clear. Instead of wondering why, why would people do that to us,

the pieces of the puzzle came together. There are people, in the case of 9/11, Muslim extremists, who hate with a passion all that is American. Why? Among other reasons, they hate the freedom and prosperity that we Americans have. The freedom and prosperity that the Lone Sailor Statue represents.

Western Civilization, the epitome of which is America, is loathed by those who don't adhere to the same ideas and principles. The pride, strength, and freedom of being American, as well as the unrivaled unity experienced after September 11<sup>th</sup>, are what I think of when I think of the Lone Sailor.

So exactly what does the statue mean to me? To adequately put it into words is challenging, but for me the Lone Sailor is an icon of everything great and worth fighting for in America. It symbolizes freedom. It evokes strong patriotic ties of loyalty. It also symbolizes the legendary military past of our country, as well as the current strength and fortitude. Our enemies have a healthy fear of and respect for the United States of America, and it's a good thing too. If absolutely necessary, we must be prepared to implement our Armed Forces. We must all be prepared to stand tall, next to the Lone Sailor, and proudly fight for this amazing country.

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