



# Why I Honor the American Flag

By SIMS LAWSON  
13 years old  
Grandson of Herman & Vicki Smith, Martin

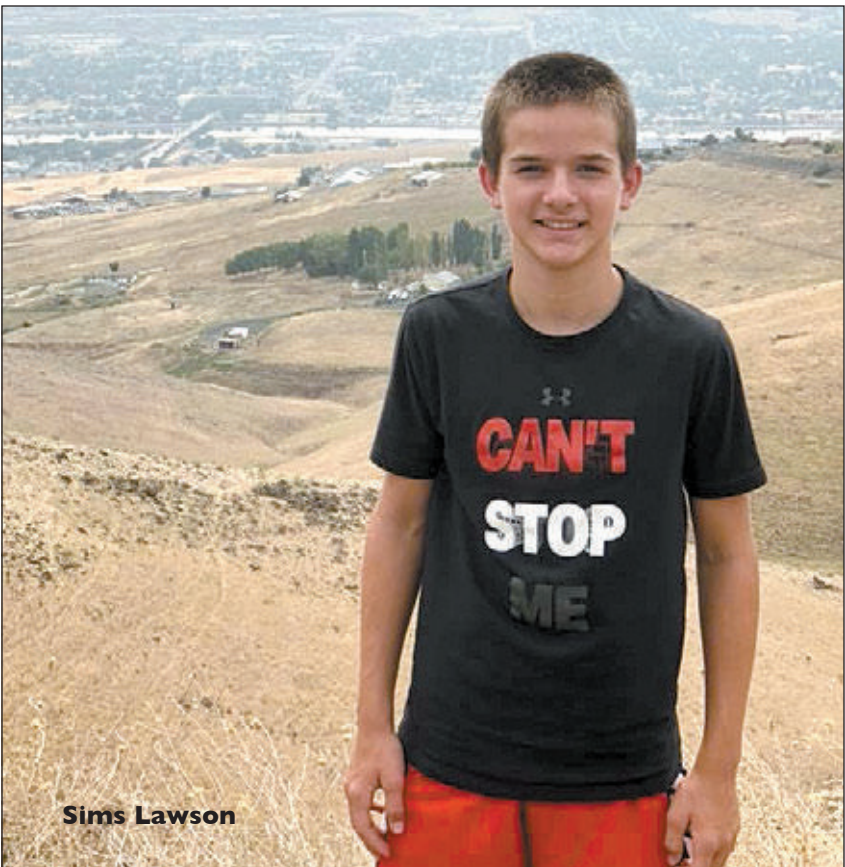
I am grateful to live in the greatest country in the world, America. The American flag has a big meaning in my life. My family has served this country for many years, and some came back happy to have served, and others with the flag draped over their casket. It pains me to see people stomping on it, burning it, or making fun of it. That's just an un-American thing to do. Why would you disrespect the place that gives you freedom and rights that are unique in this world.

I have family members that have served in every war since the Civil War. I won't ever meet most of them but I still have the utmost respect for anyone who will stand up and fight, or give their life for, this country. America holds values and freedoms unlike any other country on earth. That is why I would love to

protect these values for generations to come. This is why members of my family and other citizens have joined the armed forces to protect this country.

At my school every morning, My friend and I bring the flag outside, unfold it properly and raise it up on the pole. During the afternoon, we take it down and fold it correctly. We always make sure that it never touches the ground. I am grateful to even have just this one responsibility when it comes to the American flag. I am honored to be able to do this and grateful to have the knowledge of how to do this.

If I didn't live in this country, I wouldn't be able to do many of the things that I can. I have liberty and freedom that is unlike anywhere else in the world, and that is what that flag stands for. That is why I stand for the national anthem, and cover my heart with my hat for the pledge of allegiance, out of utmost respect for this country and those who serve and protect it, and for the American flag.



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to those who tried,  
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