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### Freedom Has Its Rights and So Do You

Each night I sit at the dinner table with my family, and I think about how lucky Americans are to have rights and freedoms. It makes me sad watching all the horrible scenes from Iraq on the news and listening to all the bad things going on with people dying, including our soldiers. But then I look at the picture of me as a little girl in the Tampa Tribune newspaper article. I was only 4 years old when I tagged along with my Grammy to vote. My parents framed this article of me standing in line with my Grammy while she voted in one of the elections for our country. We were coming home from my dance class and on the way to the store, but my Grammy told me we had to first go vote. Years later, my parents explained to me that my Grammy was voting in the 2002 presidential election. They told me that Grammy was doing what every American is responsible for doing... VOTING!

Voting is just one of the many freedoms we have as Americans. Freedom is a hard word to understand. Freedom has the smaller word "free" in it, but freedom does come at a cost. Soldiers serve and fight everyday to keep our freedom. They give their lives to protect our country. Our country is a democracy and we all help make decisions for our country. If our country all works together then we can help out other countries in need, like Iraq. John F. Kennedy quoted, "The cost of freedom is always high, but Americans have paid it."

In school I heard about Susan B. Anthony. When I came home, I told my parents about my day and all the famous people in American history that we learned about and what they did to make a difference for our country. My dad went and got his coin collection and showed me this silver dollar. It

had Susan B. Anthony's face on the front of the coin. He told me her story about how she wanted women and men to have equal voting rights. She paid the price of her freedom by voting in the presidential election of 1872. Susan was arrested for casting an illegal vote because women were not allowed to vote at the time. She exercised her right to vote which she felt was a freedom of the United States Constitution. Years later, women were allowed to vote all because of Susan B. Anthony. So now when I am old enough, I will make sure to always vote since I have the same rights as women in America.

Franklin D. Roosevelt quoted, "We and all others who believe in freedom as deeply as we do, would rather die on our feet than live on our knees." My freedom allows me to make decisions and choices for myself. It's my right to have a free education and attend school. I have my own opinions about school, I'm able to compete in contests, I can participate in all types of sports, and learn by reading facts and articles on the internet. It's my right to have friends, go anywhere I want to go and play with whoever I want. My parents have the same rights to choose their job, earn money, and live anywhere they want.

President Ronald Reagan quoted, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it onto our children in the bloodstream, but it must be fought for, protected and handed down for them to do the same." I know it is my responsibility to keep our freedom protected so that one day my granddaughter can go vote with me as I did with my Grammy.