I'M PROUD TO BE AMERICAN

Proud To Be American

Hi, my name is Billy Joe Estes. I was born September 2, 1976, in Kentucky. That is just a small reason I'm proud to be an American. It may not mean much to some people, but to think I can use my freedom in such small ways makes my life much easier.

We are fighting for what is right against Iraq. I'm proud that so many people have volunteered to keep our country safe and free. I know I will do the same when I get older, because I enjoy our country's freedom. I would not have it any other way.

-Billy Joe Estes

I am the beginning of what you see today. I am the support for many things. I allow people to stand and plants to grow. I am the ground.

I am many things to many people. I am Kentucky. I am what grows the tobacco of which many people plant. To others I am support for many stores and restaurants. I am support for the Dairy Queen MacDonalds, Pizza Hut, and the Tastee Freeze.

I am what grows trees. I am what furnishes food for wildlife. I preserve plant life as long as I can but as long as forest fires continue to plague the forests, I am afraid my work will be of no use.

I am support for Rupp Arena. I am what many sports are played on every day. I support many players such as Rex Chapman and commentators such as Caywood Ledford.

Most of all I support many soldiers in Saudi Arabia. Like we say, I am the beginning and the end of the things you see today. I am support for people, places, and things. I support the troops in the war, I support the war, and our government.

-Jason Crawford

I was born January 16, 1991. I have thousands of people supporting me. George Bush and Saddam Hussein are my creators. I am Operation Desert Storm.

I will be written in history as the result of Saddam Hussien's greed to become dictator of the entire Arab Nation.

I have caused a lot of grief and despair for those that know someone in Desert Storm and the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines away from their loved ones.

I have created many heartaches and anger which rages through many citizens across my nation. I have also created many hours of loneliness and sadness, which linger within the families that have been left behind. I've even caused the biggest oil spill ever.

I linger in the minds of twenty-year-olds that are terrified of me. Those in college could be taken out and others with jobs wouldn't get their weekly paycheck. Several are afraid of fighting and others don't believe in it.

I have many brave men and women that are serving their country. Joe Hatton, George Ishmael, Dwaine Curren, and Cassandra Browning are just a few that have volunteered to serve their country.

I represent my nation's fears and freedom, which shows that I am Proud to Be American.

-Donna Clark

I was born in 1792. I was the 15th state in the Union. I have served as many people in the past. All of the leaders I have had have been great ones. They all fought for the rights of the people in my commonwealth.

Many other countries have tried to get their freedoms such as mine, but their leaders won't allow it. Many people have appreciated me since I was born.

I am part of Rex Chapman, Henry Clay, and Adolf Rupp. Being part of Rex Chapman I started playing professional basketball when I was a freshman in college. As part of Adolf Rupp, I was an outstanding coach at the University of Kentucky. I was the person that gave the University of Kentucky's gym a name, Rupp Arena. As Henry Clay, I was a superb lawyer, in fact my house still remains in Lexington on Richmond Road.

I am very well liked by all Kentuckians. I am Kentucky sports. People come from all over Kentucky just to watch me. I am very popular in the crowd, and enjoy entertaining the audience. I am many different types of sports such as football, basketball, and baseball. I get very excited when I hear the fans cheering for me.

I am proud to be all of these things because I am free to do them. I am extremely proud to be an American.

-Tara R. George

I was born May 22, 1977. I live in the small town of Carlisle, which is located in the state of Kentucky. I may not have much money, but I do have one thing that a lot of people don't have, and that one thing is my freedom.

In other words I can go to Natural Bridge, Mammoth Cave, or anywhere else I want to go. I can say anything I want to say, and enjoy doing it.

I am also glad to have men and women like the ones in the Middle East to protect that freedom.

We're a growing country. I mean, if you stop and think about it, we have grown quite a bit since July 4, 1776, when the "Declaration of Independence" was signed. There have always been proud Americans, and I'm just proud to be here to carry on that tradition.

-Pat Sparks

What am I? What is it that I represent? I am the land of the free and the home of the brave. I am each county, each city, and each state united to form a country, so proud and strong. I am the United States, the savior of immigrants, and the father of independence.

I am dignity in the most superior form. I am the pride and strength of millions. People pledge their allegiance to my flag each day. Soldiers stand bravely in my defense. My people represent a peaceful unity... that is my strength.

I am the galloping horse and the bluegrass field. I am the Grand Canyon and Niagra Falls. I represent beauty. I am a wonder of the world, constructed by man's own hand.

I am one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Beautiful and courageous I stand... proud to be American.

-Lori Berry

"Betsy? Mrs. Betsy Ross, are you in there?" cried Mr. Washington.

"Just a minute," I called,"I'll be right there."

I hurried to the door just as President Washington knocked loudly again.

"Yes?" I asked.

"May I come in?" the President asked.

After I let him in, we began to talk about my jobs earlier for the Pennsylvania Navy. I had made a flag for them during the Revolutionary War. Now as I listened, the President was asking me to design the first American flag. It was to be red, white, and blue. There were to be 13 red and white stripes and 13 white stars on a blue back ground. I couldn't wait to get started on my new task. Imagine sewing a flag that would be seen all over America.

I kindly showed President Washington out and began to get to work.

As I sat down with my thread, needle, and material, I began to ponder...

Where will this flag be in 200 years? Maybe it will be getting burned in protest of war. Maybe it will be flying high to soldiers in a foreign War, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, and maybe even within our own country.

Another question was, will this flag ever make it to outer space or possibly that thing we call the moon? I only wish I could be there to see it.

As my hands sewed furiously, my mind wandered on.

What about games for fun? I hope this flag will be represented by a song of freedom. Athletes from far around will see its beauty.

Where will this flag fly? Over the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the sandy shores of California, the dairy farms of Wisconsin, or the White House lawn in Washington, D.C.?

Maybe it will fly over natural wonders of the world. Mammoth Cave in Kentucky or the Grand Canyon in Colorado.

Now, my last thought as I put the finishing touches on the first United States flag. Will this flag get respect from around America? It will represent the fact that freedom just wasn't given to us, but we had to fight for it.

It should let everyone be able to say they are Proud to Be American.

At last as I lie down to go to sleep, I pray to God that this flag will carry us through the hard times in the future and always come out in the glory. I am truly Proud to be American.

-Megan Denton

What am I? I am freedom and independence. I have been changed 27 times, mostly by the additions of stars to represent new states. However, at first I had no stars at all, I showed the Union stuck, the symbol of Great Britain. The design for me with 13 stars was created by Francis Hopkinson, a member of the naval board.

One June morning in 1775, George Washington rode out of Philadelphia, someone carried me, but I was yellow, instead of red, white, and blue. In the center of me was a picture of an Indian, a horse's head, and an angel blowing a horn. Far more important, however, was the design in my upper corner next to the staff. This part of me is called the Union. Here were thirteen stripes of blue and silver. I am not sure who designed me, but very probably, I was the first flag in America to use thirteen stripes to represent the first thirteen American colonies.

When the original 13 states increased to 15, two more stars were added to me- together with two stripes. In 1818, Congress realized that I would look like mattress ticking if stripes continued to be added. A new law followed ever since then and said there should be 13 stripes for the original 13 colonies and one star for each state. The latest change made to me was in 1960 after Hawaii became a state.

There has never been an official explanation for the symbolism of my colors.

Originally my colors came from British flags, with which colonial Americans were familiar. Since 1818, the only change that was made to me was the addition of stars, so my design is one of the oldest flag designs still in use today.

I am the American flag. I fly all over the U.S.A. I fly in schools across America. I fly in the desert with the soldiers. They take me to war and I lie easily on their minds. I am the American flag.

-Christy Gammon

I was born in May, 1972. I am rich in culture, history, pride, and most of my revenue comes from this history, industry, and of course, tourism added to the hard work of my people.

The first people to enter by boundaries were the Indians. They used me for a hunting ground. Then Daniel Boone bought a group of settlers on a trail that they blazed from Virginia called the Wilderness Trail. These settlers were some of the first across the Appalachian Mountains. They built log cabins from my trees and grew crops in my soil.

The people that live in me enjoy making candy, weaving baskets, making whiskey and bourbon, riding, raising, and racing horses, and taking Sunday drives on the backwoods of my one hundred and twenty counties.

I have an annual horse race each year which is called the Kentucky Derby. And is visited by people from all countries, it is also part of the famed Triple Crown challenge!

Many people travel from all over the country and around the world to see my many state and national parks. Mammoth Cave, which is one of the seven wonders of the world is located in my west. Some of my other interesting places include, Land Between the Lakes, Red River Gorge, Natural Bridge, Carter Caves, and Cumberland Falls.

With all of this I am one of the richest state in the Union, and I'm proud to be American. I am KENTUCKY! And "United I stand; Divided I fall!"

-Wesley Broderick

I am a beautiful part of a land filled with love. This wondrous nation is my heart, and soul. I contain the bluest grass, the biggest rolling hills, and the deepest valleys.

I'm joined together with rich, beautiful soil with a touch of sand and limestone. I am surrounded with the purest Ohio River to my north and east. On my west is the "Ole Mississip." I am the northern boundary of another great state, Tennessee.

There's a lot of industry in me. I really enjoy it. It keeps my valves moving and the blood pumping harder and harder. Examples are my very own bottling company, Ale 8. I also have Jockey, Toyota, and Kentucky Textiles. We even have our own state lottery. There are different games to play to win.

Besides all this there is a lot of different types of education in our area. Some examples are the University of Kentucky, Eastern University and a private college, Transylvania, which is the oldest college west of the Alleghenies.

To conclude I would love to say, I am a place filled with love, care, and trust. I'm proud of what my soul is doing for me and the others. If you take time to care and enjoy me and live a healthy life, you will grow to love me as I love you. Remember I'm one of fifty!

-Sueann M. Thacker

I'm proud to be American. In my state we are famous for our sports, restaurants, schools, and many uniquenesses.

My state is famous for its basketball. Basketball is famous because almost each school has a basketball team. Some schools have boys' and girls' teams and some just have boys'.

My state is also famous for its "down home" country cooking. In Carlisle on of the famous eating establishments is Jake's Restaurants. It's famous for its chicken, mashed potatoes, and green beans.

My state is famous for its schools. Although my state is small, our schools stand out. One of our more famous schools is Eastern. Eastern is famous for its outstanding journalism program. Eastern is also known for its football team. Eastern's football team has won two college football titles.

The last thing I think my state is famous for is its uniquenesses, such as: Ale-8, Not everybody likes Ale-8, but most teen-agers do! (Some adults do also!)

I'm proud to be American for these and many more reasons! I'm mostly proud to be American because our men and women are fighting for us in Saudi Arabia. Americans are not fighting for oil they're fighting for freedom, not just in America but everywhere. And, I support them in the Triple Crown challenge!

-Beth Hood

What does it take to be a proud American? There are many things that make me proud of my country.

I am those things: natural feature, history, famous people and about one sport, basketball. I am Kentucky.

I was born on June 1, 1792. The bloodlines of Kentucky run through our veins. I am many natural wonders. Mammoth Cave is the biggest cave system in the world. I am also Natural Bridge, Cumberland Gap through which Daniel Boone blazed a trail, Cumberland Falls and the Appalachian Mountains. I am Kentucky.

I have lots of history about me. I am Blue Licks where the last battle of the Revolutionary War was fought. I am Shakertown, Fort Boonesborough and I was the 15th State admitted to the Union.

I am Daniel Boone, the Hatfields and McCoys who fought over a fifty-cent debt. I am Davy Crockett who died for his country at the Alamo. I am Kentucky's native son, President Abraham Lincoln, who was the 16th President, and Martin Luther King who was assassinated, because he tried to free the Blacks.

And to all, I am basketball. This is my favorite sport! There were many famous people from basketball that went to the pros. Most famous was Adolf Rupp, on of Kentucky's finest coaches. Rupp Arena in Lexington, Kentucky, was named after him. He coached the "Fabulous Five." Joe B. Hall was another coach of Kentucky, he coached Kenny Walker and Sam Bowie. Rex Chapman was coached by Eddie Sutton, he also went to the pros. And since 1990, Rick Pitino is U.K.'s hope for continuing my favorite sport.

This is what I am- a proud Kentuckian. My flag states: "United we stand; divided we fall," and I believe that together we can do anything. I am a firm believer that I am the finest state ever established. I am proud to be a Kentuckian!

-Derek Anderson

I am many things and many people. I am the land between the seas. I am Daniel Boone, and the beginning of history- I am the beauty of national and state parks, I am the nation.

I am Paul Revere, John Paul Jones, and even Schwavzkoff. I fought and I am still fighting for our freedom. I created a workable national government. I am Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin- I wrote the "Declaration of Independence." I am the first president, George Washington.

I am awed by the beauty of my country, from the rolling bluegrass fields to the keeper of our past- I am the court house- I am a symbol of freedom. I am the light of the past and the hope of the future. I am the "Stars and Bars," I am the flag of the United States of America. "United we stand; divided we fall!"

With all of these combined I form a nation. A nation of love and a nation of hope. And that's why I am proud to be American.

-Jennifer Sapp

I was born in 1792, and from then I have grown and grown. I have a lot of things and will have more, which include, sports, industries, and buildings. I am Kentucky, and I am proud to be American.

In my Commonwealth we have four college teams, but the main two are University of Kentucky and University of Louisville. The coach of U.K. is Rick Pitino and Denny Crum of U of L.

Rupp Arena is named after a former U.K. coach, Adolf Rupp. Muhammad Ali, a former boxing champion,is from by Commonwealth , too. I am Kentucky.

In my Commonwealth I have some big industries. Jockey is one, there they make underwear and T-shirts. Kentucky Textiles is another, and they make Sloppy Joes which are sweat-shirts. IBM is the main company in Central Kentucky. It makes and sells computers all over the world. Ale-8 bottling company is in one of my cities, and I am the only one that has it. I am Kentucky.

Some of my buildings are famous and unique. I have many that are, such as: Fayette Mall, Rupp Arena, Freedom Hall, and the capital in Frankfort.

These are the things that prove I am alive and well. These make me proud to be American.

-Eddie Tincher

I represent thoroughbreds running through a field on a hot summer's day. I stand for freedom that rings across the land and for the water that sweeps through the Grand Canyon. And, most of all, I stand for the people. I am a NATION.

From the basketball courts of Adolf Rupp to Churchill Downs where the Kentucky Derby is run, my people enjoy their sports. They go out on a lazy Saturday afternoon and enjoy a football game or a softball game. What ever it may be, its our freedom to choose.

Each portion of me has its own culture too. Down in Kentucky the young folks

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drink Ale-8 and eat at Jake's. Out on the west coast, the Californians enjoy beaches and the sunsets. And, in South Carolina, the teenagers party along the Grand Strand.

Of course, I also have my natural features. Many people fish in my Great Lakes and Swim off my shores. They wonder at the Grand Canyon and "ooh" over my caves.

Mostly though, I am the people. Whether it be the soldiers in the sand and movie stars in Hollywood or the farmers of the plains and coal miners of Kentucky, I am everyone. Famous or not, rich or poor, no matter what color, we all are important.

As I said before, I am a NATION. I am one who stands for many. And, my friend, that makes me proud.

-Mandy Abnee

I am an American who loves America and what it stands for. I think America is the best place on earth to live. Although we may have some rights to obey, we also have a lot of freedoms too.

Some Americans might have to trace their rights back to 1215 when they signed the "Magna Carter". It was done by nobles and church leaders. The "Magna Carter" placed limits on the King's powers and tights that he had to obey. It had tights to be judged by people who were accused of crimes. Also, by signing this, King John agreed to these rights.

It was approved on July 2, 1776, the congress had approved Lee's call for independence. The delegates also made, a whole lot of changes in the Fourth of July when they adopted it. Jefferson wanted to convince them that rebelling against a king was right. He also said that people should not change their government without a reason.

Most Americans have forgotten his list but the people made governments in order to protect their rights had grown more powerful. As we know it was addressed to the world and for all American people. We have to obey these rights and to others to keep what freedom we have, that's what people do, they obey these rights and we still have our freedom. That's why I am proud to be an American.

-Stephanie Adams

What does it take to be a proud American? I am a proud American because of the sports, natural treasures, the famous people, and the uniqueness of Kentucky.

I am the sports, the sports of Kentucky! I am the horse in the race and the race itself. I am the basketball and the game. The football and the game. I am the tennis game, the hockey and the skating. These are my favorite sports to do in season. They are fun for many people.

I am Kentucky's natural treasures, indeed, I have many. I am the lakes and the rivers! I am the Natural Bridge and Mammoth Cave, the Licking River, which have been there along time. I would advise anyone to visit my treasures.

I am Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Boone, and Adolf Rupp. I am Mohammed Ali, and A.B. Happy Chandler. I am the most famous men in the history of Kentucky.

I am the uniqueness of Kentucky. I have been and will continue to be the finest tobacco, Ale-8 soda, and thoroughbred horses ever raised and bred.

I am the land, water, mountians, and valleys. I am Kentucky full and free. Unique, I am.

-James McIntyre

I am the home of many different people. Some call me the "Melting pot", because of the various kinds of people who have made me their home. These people sought the freedom and opportunity that I offer to all my residents. They have created and learned about my past. They have restaurants, and beautified my fruitful lands from coast to coast.

Since my birth, in 1776, I have truly been blessed with so many people that are proud to be Americans.

The Constitution is my instruction guide. Its Bill of Rights gives my people freedoms that they can use and enjoy. It also makes everyone equal so that they may each have the same potential and opportunities. When one becomes a citizen, they automatically acquire these rights. To be a citizen of me, the only country that offers so many freedoms, should make anyone proud to be American.

My history is one to be very proud of. It includes people like Alexander Hamilton, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abe Lincoln, Harriet Tubman, Henry Lord, John F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King. They were smart and dedicated people. Most of all, they were proud. These kinds of people are still creating my future and making my history.

My cities and towns, farms and ranches, and mountains and tropics are busy with industry. Americans work hard to produce from my fruitful lands. They also beautify me with bridges and buildings of tremendous size. I take pride in what my people have done for me and they take pride in the results.

These things are what my devoted protectors and defenders are fighting for today. They take pride in me day after day. They take much pride in them also. If not for people like them, I would not be what I am today. I am the nation, and I am proud to be American.

-Maria Vice

American pride is what our country is based upon. If people were not proud to live here, we would not have the freedoms that we have today.

Many fought for independence from Britain in the Revolutionary War, and many are fighting for freedom everywhere including Kuwait. Sometimes we take our freedom for granted because we have always had it, but freedom did not come cheaply or easily.

There have been many ways in which American people have shown pride in their country- not only in the wars that have been fought but in many actions that have been taken. Daniel Boone, for example, wanted to expand the United States, so he discovered the "passage to the West."

Numerous people have fought against the burning of the flag, and a lot of needed support has been given to our troops. Also, people take pride in American by buying products made in the U.S.A. and by doing everything in their power to clean up our environment.

Many of the things that we have in Kentucky today would not be possible if people had not taken pride in our country. We would not have school, freedom of speech, or the right to vote. Everything that we have worked so hard to achieve would be gone. American pride is priceless. No matter what happens, it cannot be taken away, that is something that we are truly thankful for.

-Katie Lawrence

I am proud to be an American, because in America everyone is free. We all have rights, we get to make our own decisions, and no one can stop us from trying to make our dreams come true.

Have you ever really sat down and thought about freedom? I have, and we Americans are very lucky. In some countries you can't even read a Bible, let alone have one. In some places women can't even have jobs. That's not what I call "Freedom."

When it comes to dreams, most people try to fulfill theirs. And in America, everyone has that right. That's why I am"Proud To Be American!"

-Jennifer Smith

I am proud to be American because of all the wonderful wonders I have to offer, like my exotic history, the famous people who I have bred and seen, my famous Industries, and my well known natural features. I am Kentucky.

I am the oldest state in the Appalachian Highlands. I was born in-1792, I was admitted to the Union as the 15th state. My name comes form the Indian word Kentake, which means "meadowland." The name Bluegrass State comes from the grass that grows in the Lexington area. I am the land.

I have seen many famous people in my time, like Daniel Boone and John Finly. Famous Americans have been born in me, like Abraham Lincoln who was the 16th president of the United States.

I have many well known factories and industries. I have the only Ale-8 plant in the world. I also have IBM plants, and a Toyota plant as part of me. I have factories like Jockey and Kentucky Textiles. I am Kentucky.

I have many traditional features like Cave Run, Natural Bridge, and Mammoth Cave, which is the largest cave system in the world. The most important is the Kentucky Derby which is held at Churchill Downs in Louisville.

I am the past, present, and future. I am the people. I am Kentucky.

-David Tincher

I am the land of Kentucky. I have bluegrass on my head, and I am the land from way back at Fort Boonesborough.

I was young when the young men fought for me. Now, I have crops on me like tobacco. I am the place where the Kentucky Wildcats play, and I like looking at the cities because I like the stores where I can watch customers go in and out of the stores.

I like Man O'War because he was a good horse champion. I'm the Licking River and the Kentucky River. I am the Cumberland Gap that is by Tennessee border. I am the son of the world. I love looking at the pretty sites of the farms and streams.

I have a lot of brothers and sisters that are other states, I have a lot of natural features like Mammoth Cave, Cumberland Dam, Kincaid Lake, Cave City, Blue Licks State Park. The governor of Kentucky is Wallace Wilkinson and he helps this state. I have colleges like UK, UL, and other colleges. I am the land that is by Indiana, Tennessee, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, Missouri, and Illinois.

I am part of the greatest country in the world the United States. Some of my brave people are fighting now so we can keep the freedoms that we have always had. The soldiers in the Middle East make us all proud to be Americans.

-Brian Simpson

I'm proud to be American because of my beautiful scenery, famous people, industries and not to be forgotten, my fun loving sports.

I have wonderful sites; the blue sky and a clear day, and trees growing in the spring, but that's not all. There are lakes, rivers, and, ponds to swim in, waterfalls that make chills on your backbone and just open fields that you can hike through or have a quiet picnic in.

I am in the heart of every true American. Daniel Boone, Paul Revere, Betsy Ross, Martin Luther Kin, and Thomas Edison; only a few to be mentioned.

I'm where factories like Jockey International function, farmers raise their crops, and horses are raced at places like Keenland and Red Mile.

I am especially famous for sports from basketball to bowling. People come from all over the world to see my sports.

I am American, proud and gracious!

-Crystal Dawn Dailey

I was brought into the world August 9, 1977, to a free nation- a nation with no more slavery and no bigotry. As I grew older, I began to learn more and more about my country. I found out that my country is much different compared to other countries. Did you know that in some countries everyone has to follow the same religion or be killed?

I am very proud of the armen and soldiers for what they are trying to do. I can't imagine how scared they must be. I believe in what the President is trying to accomplish. Therefore, I am very proud to be American!

-Nikki Sibert

I am proud to be American because of my history, my industries, my natural wonders, an my many famous people, which makes me proud to live in a great country such as this.

Civilization was born about 5000 years ago. I get chills up my spine everytime I say the pledge of allegiance or hear the "National Anthem" or hear "My Old Kentucky Home". I see and feel the pride that Betsy Ross must have felt when she sewed those first loving stitches in that first flag. (I also feel a little sad to think how hurt she would be to know there are people who would burn it or even destroy it.)

The flag has stood as a symbol of peace, hope, and freedom for 200 years. There have been many wars and conflicts in which its beautiful colors have flown proudly for freedom in the wind.

There have been many soldiers that have fallen in battle, proudly defending what it stands for.

Most Americans have a deep rooted sense of decency and morals. It was written in the Constitution that all men are created equal, that is what our late great ancestors intended.

The flag was their symbol and that symbol of pride has lasted throughout the years. The "Preamble" of the United States Constitution begins- "We the people of the United States in order to form a more perfect union." Those very famous words and sentiments still stir up feelings of pride. That has been the goal of my people to form a peaceful; nation, but there have always been leaders who wanted to rule for themselves.

June 7, 1776 the United States colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states. The Declaration of Independence was formally approved by the Congress on July 7, 1776.

There are some famous people that I am very proud of like Daniel Boone who came to Kentucky to settle the lands here and to make money. Tom Cruise who plays in many movies we watch today like Cocktail and Rain Man. Rex Chapman who played on the Kentucky Wildcats. Mr. Wildcat, a guy who has never missed a U.K. basketball game. We have a famous coach, Rick Pitino, who coaches the Wildcats.

All Americans are hard working people. We work at jobs like Jockey which makes underwear and T-shirts. Also, Toyota which makes cars and trucks. Kentucky Textiles makes jogging suits. People also work with horses and raise tobacco.

The land between the Lakes and Mammoth Cave are some of my natural and manmade wonders. Lake Carnico lies in Nicholas County, and we have a castle here in Kentucky it is very unusual, but special in its own way. Also I treasure more than others like Blue Licks where the last battle of the Revolutionary War was fought. It is also a park and a place where people meet with family.

Those are the reasons I am proud to be an American.

-Lisa Livingood

I am the ground. many men have walked over me in battles I am the heart of the nation, and I have seen great people from time to time. The natural wonders I have are amazing. The people are athletic, and very up to date. These accomplishments make me proud to be American.

The Battle of Blue Licks was fought on me. The many souls who fought didn't even know the war was over. I felt the lives lost also at Fort Boonesborough.

People such as Henry Clay and Daniel Boone were people who lived here earlier on my soil. Tom Cruise, Annie Potts, and Diane Sawyer were first raised on me. Martha Layne Collins was the first woman governor to serve office on me.

My Mammoth Cave is one of the seven wonders of the world, my Natural Bridge gets walked on by many and the Red River Gorge can be dangerous, yet beautiful to my people. I am one of two places which you can see a moonbow, this is at Cumberland Falls.

In sports I have felt many wins and losses. It seems to be more wins than losses with great coaches like Adolf Rupp and Rick Pitino. I have felt the vibrations by players such as Rex Chapman, Kenny Walker, and Sam Bowie on the floor of my Rupp Arena.

My culture is tradition. Horse racing and tobacco growing are two of the most important traditions. I am used for them both. Horses run freely over me and tobacco is grown every year within me. Without them, many people wouldn't have much.

I can feel the pulse of kids running to get an Ale-8 out of the fridge, and the dog burying Kentucky Fried Chicken in me for later use. I can feel the shivering when kids dance to the music on the radio. These are reminders that Kentuckians are very much alive and well. These events make me proud to be American. I also feel proud for being a Kentuckian.

-Candace Gilbert

I am proud to share the uniquenesses of myself, I let people use my jewels, and I am the famous people that reflect on my wonderful commonwealth. I am proud to share the Bluegrass on which my horses roam. I am an American, free and full of beauty.

My uniquenesses that I share are my bluegrass farms that over beautifully laid over my hills and mountains. I share my soft drink with everyone, it is called Ale-8 which stands for "A late one". I am a "Brier hopper", my fruit gives my people this nickname. The fruit is called blackberries. My hills and mountains people plow, the conserve my use, as they tickle my ribs. I am Kentucky.

My people show respect for my jewels and natural beauties. My people visit Mammoth Cave and call it a national Park. They protect it and keep my caves clean. They also visit my bridge, they call it Natural Bridge. They let people visit it and have picnics around it. My jewels, coal and limestone, they appreciate. They use my coal for heat and electricity. I am Kentucky.

I am proud to let my people become famous. I love my people. I extremely love the people who do things for me. Stephen Foster, wrote my song, "My Old Kentucky Home." Daniel Boone settled on me. Henry Clay was for President and Abraham Lincoln who was. They shined a special light on me. They too, are Kentucky.

I have one thing my people treasure most, the bluegrass on which my horses roam. My horses graze on my bluegrass and I am glad to share. They build their muscles and are taught to run and race. Their owners enter them into races such as Keenland. If they are good enough they enter them into the Kentucky Derby, which people come from all over the World to see. They bet on their horses and collect money. They have pride in this treasure.

I am happy to be with my people. They respect and treat me well. They work hard to keep me perfect, although I am not.

My uniquenesses: jewels, famous people, and Bluegrass, I am glad to share. I am Kentucky, I am an American, and I am Proud!

-Bethany Dunn

These essays were written by students of Phyllis Guthire at Nicholas County Elementary School.