



NEW AMERICAN PATRIOTISM

Excerpt from October 3, 2003 speech to the Democratic National Committee

It's time for change in this country. As I travel back and forth across, I see a new spirit in America—it's a new kind of patriotism. One that's built on love of country. One that's strengthened by service: service in the armed forces, service in our communities. volunteer service, paid service. full-time service, part-time service.



This **New American Patriotism** is not just about waving the flag and guarding our borders. It's about guarding what makes us distinctive as Americans: our personal liberties, our right to debate and dissent. We are not a country that manipulates facts, ignores debate, and stifles dissent. We are not a country that retaliates against people who criticize the government.

We are not a country that disdains our friends and allies. We are not a country that sheds blood before every other option has been exhausted. And we can't have a government that stands for any of these things.

And that's why I'm running for President – to return America to the core ideals of our democracy: personal liberty, service to country, respect for others, the right to criticize and correct the government - in time of war, especially. Debate, dialogue, discussion, disagreement, dissent—that's not wrong, that's not unpatriotic, that's one of the highest forms of patriotism and love of country, and we need to say it.

These American ideals have made us great. They can make us greater. They can make us safer and more prosperous. They're the ideals of our party—the Democratic Party. They're the ideals of our country. That's why I'm running, that's why I'm asking for your support. That's why we're going to build a mighty wave across this country, that's going to carry this party, and these ideals, back to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

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