

America is a land of many opportunities. "The land of the brave, and the home of the free!" Here, we can go to church, travel alone, and even get married of our own accord without being shot or threatened for making these choices. All of these things make me proud and thankful to live where I do, in America.

The opportunities that I can open up for myself in America are amazing. If I work hard enough throughout my life, in and for my education, I am able to determine the level of my education. I have the chance to work wherever I please. Yet, even those seemingly simple contingencies sometimes fail to be recognized in other parts of the world. In some countries like Guatemala, children struggle simply to learn how to read and write.

America is by no means perfect. We have people that choose to be irresponsible to the point of harming another human being. But we do at least have a military that gives everything to make our homeland free. Brazil's idea of a military is death squads driving around in pickup trucks and murdering homeless people.

The place in which I live is an exceptional example of freedom. Everywhere you go, you see people expressing themselves in religion, politics, or in any other way imaginable. Elsewhere in the world, citizens of a country cannot do this without possibly being shot by a "government agent."

This Thanksgiving, my thanks goes beyond the usual food, water and family. I am thankful that there are men and women who will risk their lives for me and you this Thanksgiving. And that I am free to be educated to as high a level as I am capable of earning.

Eric Schulze