

Freedom and Hope

Kaylin Stapinski, Grade 8
Southlake Middle School, Irvine, CA
Teacher: Suzanne Baldwin
Survivor: Max Heller

He used to live free from evil until his freedom was taken away by a Nazi uniform
I used to live free from worry and chaos until my freedom was taken away by a virus
Red staining the pavement colored by people he knew and loved
Final breaths fill the air of hospital rooms with people I care about
A loving warm family helped him push through every day
My friends and family help me continue to fight day by day

He knew that he had to leave this place of silent horror
I knew that I needed to stay safe from the outside world controlled by the virus
He began his journey to a new place of freedom with no other choice
I had to start adapting to these hopeless times for the sake of humanity
Looking back at his parents he could only see them getting smaller and smaller
With leaving school and limiting contact, everyone began to get farther and farther away
When he arrived in America he was scared, he knew he had to look to memories for comfort
When quarantine started, I had to rely on my past experiences for support

He had to move forward
I have to continue to march
Where was he able to find the freedom he longed for?
Where can I find the freedom I wish for?

He remembers seeing an American uniform, but this uniform didn't make his palms sweaty
I remember seeing uniforms of doctors, nurses, and scientists
This uniform of freedom didn't make him want to hide
These uniforms give me hope
The person wearing the uniform was welcoming to him
I see the people wearing these uniforms trying to change the world
The police officer's friendliness was his first sign of freedom
The first responders' grit was my first sign of hope
Freedom from vile hatred and oppression
Hope for a cure