

"Your Country Needs You"

By Ryan M. Niemiec Chief Science Officer VIA Institute on Character

For all parties, countries, people

Your country needs your *Creativity*: There are possible solutions at every turn, of your mind.

Your country needs your *Curiosity*: There is always a new question to ask, an insight waiting.

Your country needs your *Critical Thinking/Judgment*: There are multiple views to every issue, are you sure about your view?

Your country needs your *Love of Learning*: You can learn with a beginner's mind, learning about who someone is, to begin anew.

Your country needs your *Perspective*: Science shows you have more wisdom than you realize, if only we get out of our own way.

Your country needs your *Bravery*: Take a worthwhile risk; if you do, you'll forever remember you acted bravely.

Your country needs your *Perseverance*: If you persevere with one thing, make it your character strengths toward goodness.

Your country needs your *Honesty*: Vulnerability, transparency, integrity; remember who you are; how do you want to be in this world?

Your country needs your *Zest*: This is the lost ingredient of inner peace; turn anger-energy into productive inner enthusiasm and vitality.

Your country needs your *Love*: Your warmth can melt barriers, your listening can make peace, and your genuineness can heal. Test yourself.

Your country needs your *Compassion*: Who – in your sphere – needs your care, kindness, or generosity today?

Your country needs your *Social Intelligence*: Someone near you is lonely, lost, suffering; this strength breaks through our social blindness.

Your country needs your *Teamwork*: Gain or loss, construction or destruction, growth or decay, we are all on the same team.

Your country needs your *Fairness*: Belief in unfairness is commonplace, exerting your fairness to benefit others is a unique gift.

Your country needs your *Leadership*: Every person can guide others in a given situation; when will you lead?

Your country needs your *Forgiveness*: Letting go is a practice, for yourself; please see this again – letting go is a practice, for yourself.



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Your country needs your Humility: Win or lose, there's always the choice in each moment to lose yourself or not.

Your country needs your *Prudence*: The vigilant mind brings happiness, the wandering mind does not; you have this strength.

Your country needs your *Self-Regulation*: Feeling and mindfully expressing anger, fear, and sadness is to empower yourself, while blaming and defensively reacting is to lose your power.

Your country needs your *Appreciation of Beauty*: The trees, the children, the rivers, the eagles, the frogs are not lost; they are free; they are the role models for us.

Your country needs your *Gratitude*: When you need a well-being jolt, be grateful for someone or something in your life.

Your country needs your *Hope*: Whether yours is a beacon of light, that thing with feathers singing without words, or an undying optimism – see it, hear it, be it.

Your country needs your *Humor*: Laughter and smiling are medicines for you and your relationships; take your medicine, but not too much or too little.

Your country needs your *Spirituality*: Humanity is sacred; we can honor this with our words and actions; everything and every-one belongs to the whole.

Your country needs you. All of you.