

Honorable Mention

11th-12th Grade

23rd Annual Student Essay Contest | Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum

“It’s Going to Rise Tomorrow”

Austin Allen once said, “It’s going to rise tomorrow.” Austin Allen is the son of one of the victims of the bombing. His father, Ted Allen, died in the bombing. Ted was a father to six children, including Austin. With much sorrow, Austin talks about hope in a tragedy: the sun is going to rise tomorrow. There are many morals that we can take away from this tragedy including the need for hope during a tragedy, the application of the Oklahoma Standard, and the lesson we can learn from this.

With a flood comes a rainbow, the bombing was a terrible tragedy, but with such tragedy came hope. Hope is arguably the strongest thing there is. The hope and courage displayed during the bombing was tremendous and it showed just how much we actually care about one another. With all the bloodshed going on in the world it is hard to have hope, this is why we should and need to remember the bombing. The bombings’ remembrance is just as important today as it was in the past decades. Many saved lives by donating blood, supplies, food, and time to help the survivors. I wasn’t born during this time, but what I felt watching videos and reading articles about it was that it inspired hope and unity.

One word that can describe the aftermath of the bombing would be united. We are the United States and we came together just like we always do in times of need. We contributed and prayed and helped out in any way we could. The Oklahoma Standard is what got us through this time of pain. Oklahomans stick together and are a family that is united.

The lesson that we can all learn from this is that people need to have hope. Without hope we have nothing, no will to live or keep on going. What the bombing taught us was that we need each other, we need to be united, and we need hope. The world is always going to have bad things in life, but we have to look for the good. Between the wars and arguments going on in today’s society, we have to remember we are all human and bleed the same color of blood. When we are having a bad day we should remember what Austin Allen said, “It’s going to rise tomorrow.” The world isn’t going to stop because we have a painful experience so it’s best to look for hope tomorrow.

While visiting the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum, I saw the empty chairs and the reflecting pool, and I felt sorrow for those lost and pride in the fact I am an Oklahoman. History is studied so it isn’t repeated. Austin Allen’s quote “It’s going to rise tomorrow” is so powerful. We need to remember and acknowledge the inspiring hope, the Oklahoma Standard, and the lesson we can learn from this. Even though my generation was not born when this tragedy occurred, the video showed me the importance of remembering the bombing and our state's history.