

After years of fighting, it appeared as if you lost the battle. But it was evident you had not lost the war. You changed the perception of the United States Constitution. The name Dred Scott is highly respected everywhere in the United States, and you are remembered as a soldier. Not necessarily a soldier of the Civil War, but a soldier in the war for freedom and equal rights for African-Americans.

After fighting for nearly your entire life, you received your freedom. Tragically, you only experienced it for nine months. However, you deserved every minute of it. After your demise, I know that you were free. You were no longer suffering from the bondage of "forced servitude." You were no longer looked down upon by those who did not agree with what you were fighting for. You were no longer hated by onlookers and those that did not, could not, and would not understand. You were FREE. You could fully comprehend the true meaning of freedom.

In your honor, I can live as an equal. I am not considered property. I have the same rights as other people. I am an American citizen. And in your honor, I will continue as you once did, and not be a stereotype or statistic. Once again I say, Thank You. Thank you for paving the way for your people, for people like me. Thank you for changing the nation.

Sincerely,

Kenitria Reed