**Heroes**

**A hero is someone we can admire without apology. (Kitty Kelley, in New York Times)**

**When 5-year-old Allison Anderwald noticed that her mom, Tracy, was lying motionless at the bottom of their backyard pool, the fearless Texas girl dove right in. Allison pulled her mom to the shallow end and lifted her head above the water before running to get help. Tracy had suffered a seizure and fallen unconscious, and would likely have drowned had her daughter not acted fast. "It is truly amazing that this little girl, who's actually also pretty small for her age, was able to save my sister," said Allison's aunt, Tedra Hunt. "She's our little mermaid and my little hero." (The Week magazine, April 8, 2016)**

**It’s time we ended the automatic veneration of U.S. service members as “American heroes,” said William Astore. As a retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel, I am fully aware that military service, especially combat, can and often does give rise to true bravery and selfless sacrifice. But ever since 9/11 joining the service has been treated as “a magical shortcut to hero status.” Simply donning a uniform does not make one a hero, and war is, by and large, not an ennobling enterprise. War is mostly about brutality, horror, and chaos, and it often so dehumanizes and deadens soldiers that they are capable of terrible things, including killing civilians. Imagining our military as “a league of heroes,” and casting the entire enterprise as unquestionably noble, I believe, leads to the glorification of war and a devaluation of everyday heroism. Take a look around. The world is full of people who selflessly put their lives on the line for their fellow human beings, and “most of them look nothing like John Wayne or John Rambo or GI Joe (or Jane).” (The Week magazine, August 6, 2010)**

**Apollo 11's unsung hero: Michael Collins is the forgotten man of the moon handing, said Kenneth Chang in The New York Times. On July 20, 1969, Collins remained in orbit 60 miles above the moon in the command module while Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin explored the surface below. Unlike millions of people on Earth, Collins missed Armstrong's famous "one small step" speech. At that moment, he was above the far side of the moon and cut off from all communications. But he didn't mind being alone in the module. "I had this beautiful little domain," Collins, now 88, says. "It was all mine. I was the emperor, the captain of it, and it was quite commodious. I had warm coffee, even." He doesn't remember anything that Armstrong and Aldrin said to him when they returned. But he does recall that they were extremely dirty. "Their nice white suits had all this grainy goo on them from the rocks and dust on the moon," he says. "And I thought, 'Oh, I'm going to bring that into the command module; I have to clean everything up.'" Three days later, they returned to Earth, splashing down in the Pacific Ocean. "I was just amazed that all those mechanical little bits and pieces worked exactly as advertised," he said, "and we were able to carry off what John F. Kennedy had told us to do without a hitch." (The Week magazine, August 9, 2019)**

**True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost. *(Arthur Ashe, tennis star, from a speech)***

**In a world of flashy young stars, National Basketball Association rookie Grant Hill is an oddity. He does not draw attention to himself with a big mouth or an act or jewelry or hair or dances or trash talk. He conducts himself with an elegance that seems more uncommon in sports than a solid collective-bargaining agreement. "When I was young, I remember watching Julius Erving," he says. "The thing I liked best about Doctor J was that he carried himself with class. He never went out of his way to embarrass anybody. I feel like I come from a generation that has the wrong type of heroes. I never got to see Arthur Ashe play tennis, but I saw the way he lived his life after tennis. I always felt that was the type of person I should be looking up to because of his spirit. It's a matter of respect." (Mike Lupica, in Esquire magazine)**

**My heroes are Larry Bird, Admiral Byrd, Lady Bird, Sheryl Crow, Chick Corea, the inventor of birdseed, and anyone who reads to you even if she's tired. (Big Bird)**

**Wasn’t the first private eye, Allan Pinkerton, a black man? No, he was a fair Scot, but became a hero of blacks. A shop of his, a cooperage, was a way station in the underground railway that moved black refugees out of the South. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Simon Bolivar was the hero of more than two hundred bloody battles, and considering the terrain over which he fought, the combat experience of his troops, and the results he achieved, Bolivar should be remembered as one of the most able generals in history. (Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 54)**

**The hero reveals the possibilities of human nature; the celebrity reveals the possibilities of the media. *(Daniel J. Boorstin, in The Image)***

**Heroes are people who rise to the occasion and slip quietly away. *(Tom Brokaw)***

**Trying to teach our three-year-old that his sewer-dwelling cartoon heroes – Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles – had predecessors, I hauled out an art book and showed Perry an illustration of Leonardo da Vinci’s “Last Supper.” Then I turned to the “Mona Lisa” and to pictures by other turtle namesakes – Raphael, Donatello and Michelangelo. “Do you know,” I summed up, “the real Raphael, Donatello, Michelangelo and Leonardo were artists who lived a long time ago?” With a puzzled look, Perry said, “And then they moved to the sewer?” (Laurie Bernstein, in Reader’s Digest)**

**A light supper, a good night’s sleep, and a fine morning have often made a hero of the same man who, by indigestion, a restless night, and a rainy morning, would have proved a coward. *(Lord Chesterfield)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Our children may learn about heroes of the past. Our task is to make ourselves architects of the future. *(Jomo Kenyatta, former Kenyan President)***

**Children need models more than they need critics. (Joseph Joubert)**

**Political history is far too criminal and pathological to be a fit subject of study for the young. Children should acquire their heroes and villains from fiction. (W. H. Auden)**

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**Heroism doesn’t always happen in a burst of glory. Sometimes small triumphs and large hearts change the course of history. *(Mary Roach, author)***

**A stray dog in Dallas helped save a litter of 10 abandoned puppies and their stricken mother last week, earning him the name Hero. Animal-rescue volunteer Marina Tarashevsce spotted the stray in a city park, but when she approached, Hero started barking and running away, only to return a moment later. Worried he might he sick, Tarashevsce followed Hero deeper into the woods, until he finally led her to the mom and her pups. All the dogs are now being cared for at an animal-rescue center. "Absolutely amazing," Tarashevsce said. (The Week magazine, March 27, 2015)**

**Do I want to be a hero to my son? No. I would like to be a very real human being. That's hard enough. (Robert Downey, Jr., actor, who plays the superhero Iron Man on-screen)**

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**A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is braver five minutes longer. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**The hero cannot be common, nor the common the heroic. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)**

**Every hero becomes a bore at last. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)**

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**There are those who recall when Japan’s Emperor Hirohito was worshiped as divine. It might surprise them he’s now portrayed as the hero of a recent Japanese comic book. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Everyone is necessarily the hero of his own life story. (John Barth, American author)**

**Leonard Skutnik was heading home from work on January 13, 1982, when a traffic jam changed his life. The backup was caused by an Air Florida plane that had crashed into a bridge during a freak blizzard in Washington, D.C. The plane had fallen into the Potomac River, and Skutnik watched with other commuters as survivors clung to the partially submerged plane waiting for rescue. By the time helicopters arrived, the victims had been in the freezing water for more than 15 minutes. Skutnik saw that one woman was too weak to grab the rescue line lowered to her. “Nobody else was doing anything,” he said, so he jumped in and rescued the woman. After the rescue, Skutnik gave his jacket to another victim, although he himself was wet and shivering. When asked to explain his heroic behavior, Skutnik didn’t have any profound explanation. “I just did it,” he said. “It was the only way.” Take time today to honor an unsung hero in your life. (Ben Franklin’s Almanac, p. 20)**

**My father was and is my hero. He never made excuses; he never looked to politicians to take care of his family. He trusted hard work. He understood the only helping hand is the one at the end of your sleeve. *(J. C. Watts, in Reader's Digest)***

**Show me a hero and I'll write you a tragedy. *(F. Scott Fitzgerald)***

**Without doubt, the greatest hero in my life is my grandmother, Delia O’Coffey. When my grandparents emigrated from Ireland, they arrived at Ellis Island with little more than hope and the fierce determination to shape their version of the American Dream. And they did – briefly. My grandfather died of pneumonia in the 1930s, leaving my grandmother with sole responsibility for five young children. At that time, immigrants faced significant hurdles and discrimination. Many businesses displayed signs outside shop windows and factory gates that read “Help Wanted: No Irish Catholics Need Apply.” But grandma eventually landed a job at a rubber factory, toiling away under harsh conditions for little pay. For 25 years, she punched the time clock day in and day out without complaint, paving the road for her children to achieve the American Dream. And they did, as do their children’s children today. She was, as President Obama said of his grandmother, “one of those quiet heroes that we have all across America.” *(Patrick Perry, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**The difference between a hero and a coward is one step sideways. (Gene Hackman)**

**We relish news of our heroes, forgetting that we are extraordinary to somebody too. *(Helen Hayes)***

**As you get older, it's more difficult to have heroes but it's just as necessary. (Ernest Hemingway)**

**So long as men worship the Caesars and Napoleons, Caesars and Napoleons will duly rise and make them miserable*. (A. Huxley)***

**Nobody who says, "I told you so" has ever been, or will ever be, a hero. *(Ursula K. Le Guin, author)***

**The soldiers fight, and the kings are heroes. *(Jewish proverb)***

**My Hero: If I know what love is, it is because of you. *(Herman Hesse)***

**Our lack of heroes is an indication of the maturity of our age. A realization that every man has come into his own and has the capacity of making a success out of his life. Of being able to say, “I have found my hero, and he is me.” *(Dr. George A. Sheehan)***

**Would you categorize Abraham Lincoln as your kind of hero? He didn’t smoke, didn’t chew, didn’t dip snuff. Ever, to my knowledge*. (L. M. Boyd)***

**In Heroes: What They Do & Why We Need Them, authors Scott Allison and George Goethals found that one third of the heroes cited by average Americans live closer to home – in their own family. Family members don’t just love and nurture us – they share time, our most precious commodity. *(Patrick Perry, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**Grandma: “Earl, why are there reporters at our door?” Earl: “Oh, someone probably called them with an anonymous tip about a local hero.” Grandma: “For crying out loud, Earl! You called the media to publicize the fact that you saved my life?” Earl: “I thought it was my duty as a citizen.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**She was my hero growing up. It was a blessing to watch her overcome every obstacle – she had a job and would come home on the bus by herself and help with dinner. You could only imagine the hurdles she encountered every minute of the day. She was a role model to get me ready for life. *(Eva Longoria, actress, on her older sister, Liza, who is disabled)***

**A national hero hailed as the “man who saved San Francisco” after the 1906 earthquake, Maj. Gen. Frederick Funston grew up in Iola, Kansas, where his home has been restored as a museum. After the quake, Funston mobilized forces to keep law and order, established emergency medical facilities and housing, and generally restored order to the destroyed city. He was born in 1865 in New Carlisle, Ohio. *(American Profile magazine)***

**A California nurse formed such a e\remarkable bond with one of her infant patients that she ended up adopting the child. Mary Ann Wells spent more than 11 months looking after baby Sophia, singing to and holding her in Loma Linda's Children's Hospital after the 2-week-old was brought in with a serious birth defect. When Child Protective Services later removed Sophia from her parents, "Nana Wells embarked on a $100,000 legal battle to adopt the youngster, now 8. The money was well spent, says Wells. "To have a child look at you and say, 'Nana, you're my hero,' what else could you ever ask for?'" *(The Week magazine, November 24, 2017)***

**Calculation never made a hero. (John Henry Cardinal Newman)**

**The really heroic people are not the ones who travel 10,000 miles by dog sled but those who stay 10,000 days in one place. *(William Gordon)***

**President Obama now tops the roster of people, living or dead, that Americans named as their “personal hero.” Rounding out the top five were Jesus Christ, Martin Luther King Jr., Ronald Reagan, and George W. Bush. Respondents were not given a list of names to choose from. (*Harris Poll, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 6, 2009)***

**I don't want to be a supermodel; I want to be a role model. *(Queen Latifah)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Real heroes don’t save the world, they serve the world*.* *(Submitted by Guideposts reader Linda Bird of Anderson Island, Washington)***

**The real heroes of human existence are those who are camouflaged by unpretentiousness. I think a symphony best characterizes my feelings: a large group of musicians, each proficient in his chosen instrument, each humble enough to lead his talent so that the whole is brought to life and fully appreciated. *(David Fowler, in The Christian Science Monitor)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**We can’t all be heroes because somebody has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by. *(Will Rogers)***

**We do not have to become heroes overnight. Just a step at a time, meeting each thing that comes up, seeing it is not as dreadful as it appears, discovering that we have the strength to stare it down. *(Eleanor Roosevelt)***

**If only the sun-drenched celebrities are being noticed and worshiped, then our children are going to have a tough time seeing value in the shadows, where the thinkers, probers and scientists are keeping society together. *(Rita Dove, in New York Times)***

**Billy says to his Mom: “When I grow up I wanna be a SUPERHERO – a fireman or a policeman!” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Heroes take journeys, confront dragons and discover the treasure of their true selves. *(Carol Pearson)***

**The hero is commonly the simplest and obscurest of men. (Henry David Thoreau)**

**Every one of us is a hero in waiting. We’re just waiting for the opportunity to step forward and do something extraordinary. *(Scott Allison, author)***

We all live in suspense, from day to day, from hour to hour; in other words, we are the hero of our own story. *(Mary McCarthy, author)*

Heroes and winners aren't the same thing. *(Michael Kevin Farrell, in Cleveland Plain Dealer magazine)*

**Without heroes, we are all plain people and don’t know how far we can go. *(Bernard Malamud, American author)***

**Hero worship is strongest where there is least regard for human freedom. *(Herbert Spencer, British philosopher)***

**A friend took a long-awaited cruise. One night he was getting ready for dinner when he heard a woman in the next cabin crying, “Oh, no. Don’t die on me now!” followed by slapping sounds. Having just finished a CPR course, my friend jumped up to help the woman. As he began to bang on her cabin door, he heard the distinctive sound of a hair dryer starting up. The would-be hero quietly slunk back to his cabin. *(Barbara K. Seay, in Reader’s Digest)***

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