

### “Do You Think America Still Has Heroes Today?”

A fire burns; firefighters rush in as the people's cry for help becomes louder than the roaring flames. The screams of panicked neighbors echo during a gang war as police officers try to establish order. A mother prays her child will safely recover from an operation. Soldiers sacrifice themselves for his/her comrade and the freedom of their country. These are everyday situations, everyday people, everyday choices, and everyday individuals who stand up to put others first instead of themselves. In a human perspective, a hero is an ordinary person who chooses to do just and right acts for the good of others even if it means risking his or her own life. Incidentally, we all seem to say that all heroes are naturally born by destiny, when in reality, they are not. No one is born a hero, but everyone has the capability to be one. As American citizen I believe that heroes still exist today, right now, and right here. They are the ones who have proven time and time again to put others before themselves. As an American citizen, I believe those heroes are present day firefighters, doctors, nurses, paramedics, police officers, soldiers, Marines, and most importantly our veterans.

I strongly believe that the United States of America still has heroes because our country would not be what it is today. Many of us don't realize how difficult it was for people to sacrifice their everyday lives and take a new position to protect our rights, our freedom, and our country. Most of us ignore difficult situations by turning our heads the other way; always seeking the easy way out. Though it is a natural instinct to run away from danger rather than to run towards it, people who confront it have a deeper understanding of what it means to be the bigger person. For this purpose, I pay my utmost respect to all veterans and present day soldiers for taking the stand to protect American families, my family, myself, and the future American generation first.

For one thing, there is no denial that the United States of America has become a major worldwide icon of success and power. For this reason, we owe our gratitude and pride to all heroes, especially those veterans who represented the U.S. in its hardships and accomplishments. From the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Vietnamese War, and numerous others up to the present day war in Iraq, these brave individuals are the reason why we have the lifestyle we have today. In addition, our patriotic pride still exists today because of the sacrifices that all of our American veterans made. It is because of each and every one of them we are able to celebrate the fourth of July with friends and families and create memorable moments. It is because of them we can proudly say we are American citizens. It is because of them the United States of America has the good reputation it has at the present moment. And it is because of them we are alive today.

Above all, I believe America still has heroes today because more and more young individuals are taking the United States and the safety of its people more seriously. More are making the decision to enroll in the Air Force, the Marines, and Arm Forces. For example, my cousin Jesus Valladares recently left in September for Army training in Iowa. As a family, we respected his decision and knew of its importance. The young will learn from their elders. The newly recruited will learn from their veterans. I am thankful for the choice my cousin has made as well as the many others who have chosen this path.

Finally, as American citizens we should give special recognition and total respect to anyone who risks their lives, especially those who do so in our country. Words cannot express the gratitude and pride I feel at this very moment. Real heroes are real people who take action in worldly matters and push towards righteousness even in life threatening situations. They choose to do more than what needs to be done. We must remember that no one is born or destined to be a hero, but everyone has the capability to be one. Everyday opportunities, everyday choices, everyday consequences, everyday people, ordinary everyday heroes.