

Americas Hero's

By: John J. Matyjewicz
Chief, U.S. Navy, Ret.
john@gizbit.com

It seems that the only time we think of Hero's is when there is a disaster. That's when we chant and praise them and even feed them. The people we now say are Hero's were there doing their job yesterday and the day before and even last year when we didn't even notice them. Everyday of their career they are Hero's because they chose to do a job that most people can't.

We now praise our Military, they are Hero's patrolling the streets, sky's and even waters around our cities. When these Hero's came back from Vietnam thinking they really were Hero's we spit on them in their own country. They didn't get a parade, they got another fight.

After Vietnam our government decided it wasn't safe for our military to walk the streets of their own country in uniform they asked them to leave the military installations in regular street clothes so they would fit in. Remember these are our Hero's.

At a minutes notice our Hero's respond to a deadly crisis without even blinking an eye. When a police officer stops us for doing something wrong we call him a pig, not a Hero. When we need them and they can't be found we say "Check the Donut Shop". These Hero's are greatly underpaid and defiantly overworked, but we fail to give them a pay raise or new equipment to save lives.

We have volunteer Firefighters and EMS personal all over our country. They are volunteer so they don't get paid. They do it all for free and we don't call them Hero's, I have heard a lot of things but not Hero's. We now call them Hero's because they are doing their jobs. They too were always there doing their job and always have been a Hero!

As Americans we forget how free we really are. We take everything for granted and forget to pass on core values to our children, except when disaster hits. We no longer talk to our neighbors, the mailman, or a person in the street. We no longer say "Hello" or "Good Morning" to people we don't know. You no longer go into a neighborhood and smell the delicious foods cooking in the kitchens.

As Americans we need to take a step back and take another look at our lives, our children's lives, and the lives around us. We need to know that there are Hero's that walk among us each and every day. Some of them are unknown Hero's, some of them you can see real clear, but still they are Hero's.

People who volunteer their time to help someone or our children are Hero's. They take the time to do something the rest of us don't want to. Most people talk to a Hero a couple of times a week and don't even know it, because we don't take the time to find out.

Lets not lose our Hero's again. Remember them everyday in your prayers and Thank them often. Remember the unsung Hero's and the Hero's in all of us.