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COURAGE By: Skypilot

This month I'd like to talk to you about Courage. Growing up I had many ideals what courage was and through my adult life (from 18 to now) I myself have experienced Courage first hand. Hearing stories from Grandma about Uncle Alvin C. York (WWI Medal Of Honor) I thought he was very courageous in sticking to his religious beliefs and still going to war and earning Americas highest honor.

Then television came along and Courage changed to idols like Superman, Green Hornet, Lone Ranger, and Sgt. Preston with his faithful dog King.

I always thought the man I called my Father (my step Dad) was very courageous being a Pearl Harbor survivor and serving our nation for as long as he did, retired a Master Chief U. S. Navy.

I remember watching old WWII movies and finding more Men of Courage like, Audie Murphy, George C. Patton, George Bush, John F. Kennedy, the crew of the Indianapolis just to name a few.

I went to Vietnam in 1969 and witnessed with my own eyes Men of Courage, John J. Johnson Jr. (JJ), he saved my life then died in my arms for having Courage along with nine others I knew that gave their lives. As a matter of fact there are over Fifty Eight Thousand Men of Courage on a Black Granite Wall in Washington D.C. , and Memorials for the Men of Courage from WWII and Korea.

History is filled with stories of Men of Courage, but today in the year of 2006 there

are not only Men but Women of Courage serving our Great Nation in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. There are four to five times the number of amputees returning and you read stories from magazines like The D.A.V., V.F.W., American Legion, e-mails and articles on the Internet of young Soldiers returning missing legs and arms and all they want to do is stay in the Military and if possible return to Iraq. I know a young Marine Staff Sergeant who lost his leg and that was all he wanted is to stay in The Corp and by the grace of God and a Marine Corp General he will be able to fulfill that dream, he not only had that dream fulfilled, but he didn't give up riding either. He practiced a little at a time and at Rolling Thunder this past year he was there and RIDING. One other young American with Courage and you have heard of me talk about Him before is Sgt. Keith Matt Maupin of Batavia, Ohio who is currently being held against his will by the Iraqi Government and has been since 2004. It is a crime the way our Government is treating this whole issue he is not even listed POW but MIA/C. Call your Local Rep and Demand Matt's return (1-877-762-8762).

These young Americans have about as much Courage as any one I have ever known in my life. So Welcome these young Americans Home with open Hands and Hearts. Show them just how much you appreciate their Courage. Let's not have a repeat of how the Men of Courage from the Vietnam War were given when they returned. Be safe out there and may the Great Spirit always ride with you.

Keep on Triken, Skypilot



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