

Heroes Forever

Original Essay By: Emily Parrish

What makes a hero, a hero? What qualifications make them titled a hero? A hero is a person who lives their day to day life for others. A hero is brave, encouraging, loving, and caring. A hero will save people when they do not know they need saving. Here is a story about a real hero in every American's life.

There was whistling. A loud whistling in the humid, sun-kissed air. It sent shivers through the USA soldiers, who were standing outside of their base located in Afghanistan. The year was 2013 and it would be a year that some never forget. The soldiers smelled danger that ravished throughout their surroundings. War was not a place they called home, but it was a temporary stay. Five-seconds later, the world around them changed. A grenade flew through the still air, and did its job. Melissa Parrish, one of the many soldiers injured in that attack, woke up in a hospital located in Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany.

Melissa and her commander were the soldiers outside who felt the guilt and fear of life. They sensed danger, and their instincts did not fail them. The grenade placed itself a few feet away from Solider Parrish. Immediately, she hit the ground. Blood rushed out of her human body. "This was the end." Those words filled her mind, and she thought it was time for her to depart this corrupted and broken world. Her commander fell to the ground and noticed Parrish dying. The injuries were very crucial, and the blood escaped her too quickly. He acted. Without hesitating, he placed pressure to the opened wound, and he held her body together. His hands acted as the stitching to her white and thin skin. Solider Parrish's life were in his hands. The next thing Parrish remembers was waking up in a hospital bed.

Most people would stop the story there. The Commander was the hero. Readers may conclude a hero is a person who has to go to war and save a life. What about Solider Parrish and all the other soldiers who save American's lives everyday? The Commander will be forever remembered as a hero. He saved my sister's life, but people also need to conclude that a hero is a

person who fights for what they believe in. They have integrity, dignity, and strength to keep fighting the good fight. A hero works to better another person.

Many soldiers died that day. They died fighting to be a hero for Americans. A hero values other's lives before they value their own. Soldier Parrish recovered six months later, and recently just arrived home from her second deployment. Her commander valued her life, and he put that priority in front of his own life.

People only have so many seconds that they are alive on earth. It goes quickly. When a person's life is over, they may feel like they wasted their seconds. A hero fights to keep a person's life ticker ticking.

A hero is not some man in a cape. He is a man that will go down fighting to save others. There are many heroes in the world. They fight for you and me everyday. Never take a hero for granted, but instead work to become one.