



Real Heroes Wear Tennis Shoes...

The future looks exciting to newlyweds, to new graduates, new business owners, to children longing to finally step out on their own. It's natural. Depending on your mindset, it is indeed an exciting time to be alive.

But when you've lived a few decades, you realize that life is at best, brief. And you realize, along with the good that's *out there*, there also can be horror.

History bears that out... The Civil War, The Holocaust. Pearl Harbor. A half dozen *major* wars. The Johnstown, Pa. Flood where 2000 died. Weather brought its own horrors -hurricanes, tornados, tsunamis, etc. And 'personal' horrors - broken homes, loss of loved ones and/or physical health or mobility. ALZ and AIDS are newer horrors.

Having traveled a great deal and attended world conferences of various sorts over decades, I've always been taken by the *average American*. Bikers I've met through family represent some, who love the roar of motorcycles. Unlike the rugged stereotype I once believed, many are ordinary, decent- often wealthy- folks.

It was average folks such as steelworkers who built our bridges and infrastructure, who changed the skyline of every major U.S. city with skyscrapers. These were all heroes of sorts. Hard workers, dedicated to family, and getting a good education for their children.

There are those who *do* rise to celebrity status, but in my mind - what made America great are *ordinary people*. It is they who are the real patriots, those Americans who work & war in the trenches of life and industry. Who valued their word, and honor and truth.

Some of them went to work that sunny morning of 9/11/01, or boarded a plane, but found instead they had joined a war *they didn't know about*. Yet.

That day, 2792 people died. Ordinary people living ordinary lives who made the ultimate sacrifice. Oh, the suffering and sorrow left behind. For everyone...

Were YOU horrified like everyone else? I know I was! Yet, *I was not surprised*. Why? Because in 1993, Osama said during Desert Storm that America would pay for walking on & eating *bacon* near Mecca!

Reality says there are definite signs the *future* may not all be pleasant.! Failure of the dollar; dirty bombs; a nuclear EMP that destroys our power grid & water; war with Iran or Korea -the list goes on. Are YOU ready? How about your children.? Or are you hoping *against hope* these won't occur? Some *will*...

How did we get where we are now? Valued personal privacy is *traded* for *feel good* 'security' at TSA. The phrase 'Christian Conservative' is now viewed in newsrooms with the same disdain as 'child molester'. High ideals are rejected.*Good* is called *evil*!

The erosion of truth *birthed compromise*. Before being judged by God, He said of Israel "They are not valiant for truth upon the earth."¹ His people *shunned* truth!

Today, In Wash.D.C., & from the Courthouse to the Churchhouse to individuals, principle - i.e. truth - bow to compromise. How? We've rejected God's word! The ultimate plumbline for all *truth* is holy scripture... God exalts His Word even above His name.² Jesus said 'I am the truth'.³ Whole civilizations have been built upon this. If we want marriage to be valued, laws enforced on greed & pornography, sex trafficking to end, less smut posing as entertainment - we must resist the *mediocrity* and *apathy* empowering them!

The future is full of many uncertainties! Yet, in spite of what we think about it - that our fate is sealed, we're in end times, or '*what does it matter*'...?. one thing is true. **God is set to use America again** in *spite* of, or simultaneous with these! It took only 12 *ordinary people*, heroes, to 'turn the world upside down' the first time! ^{4,5}

A Hero is someone who steps out of their comfort zone 1 step farther than everyone else! Yours is a role only *you* can fulfill! Pray for your children; get them *saved*. Talk to others about things that matter! Being a spectator is past!

