

A Thanksgiving with Gratitude

Thanksgiving is when I like to take the time to reflect on the things or events that have touched me in a special way. This has been a year where ordinary people performed extraordinary acts. I think of the young soccer team that was trapped deep in the back of a cave with water quickly closing in on them and divers from around the world flew to Thailand to bring them to safety. As well as the many firefighters who risked their lives fighting the fires of Alberta and British Columbia this past summer. We watched as Hurricane Florence ravaged the east coast of the United States knowing that their houses would eventually succumb to the rising water. We watched first responders and many good Samaritans leave safety behind in order to rescue people from roof tops, family pets, and in some cases even livestock from the swollen waters. Hero's come in all shapes, sizes, ages, cultures and nationalities. Unfortunately many of them never receive recognition for the dangers they put themselves in or the sacrifices they make. Heroes are often humble and believe that they haven't done anything out of the ordinary but we know our lives are better because of them – they give us the best gift of all, their time and sacrifice.

I have a hero; he isn't a fireman, first responder or scuba diver. He is an ordinary man that puts his wants and needs at the bottom of the list. He is my greatest supporter, my partner and my best friend. Not one of my life's accomplishments would have been achieved without his support. My career would not exist without his care and devotion. His sacrifices allowed me to study while he cared for our growing children. He stocked the fridge and pantry with healthy food, learned to cook great meals, managed to keep a tidy house, magically turned dirty laundry to clean, kept the lawns cut, edged and the garden beds weeded, as well as taking on the role of chauffeur for our growing family. If you guessed that my hero is my husband, then you are right. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't realize how fortunate I am to have such a loving, dedicated and devoted man in my life. Are there times that he doesn't feel appreciated? Regretfully there are. Not intentionally of course, but like many of you, my days are busy and far too often a 'thank you' falls between the cracks of life. It is surely not my intent to have him feel under-appreciated. His selfless acts of kindness and thoughtfulness allow me to work long days without giving a second thought that life at home will continue. Animals are fed, garden and lawns groomed, house and vehicles are maintained, and a warm meal awaits me after a long day. I am not declaring that he is perfect. However he is perfect for me. He is and forever will be my hero!

Do you have a hero? If so, have you taken the time to share your appreciation with them? Whoever it is, there is never a better time but the present to reflect and give thanks for their selfless acts of generosity and kindness.

Among the many wonderful things that I would like to give thanks for is the love of family and friends, and the many special people who I am fortunate to work with every single day. Thank you for making every day a special one.

Wishing you and your family a very HAPPY THANKSGIVING!