



ATTRIBUTES OF A HERO

Marcel Raiche

Bishop Baraga Catholic School, Iron Mountain

Riots, racism, violence, depression, unemployment, and Coronavirus. The list of words to describe 2020 grows every day, and many aren't positive. People don't remember the American Revolution as much as they remember Abraham Lincoln. In the same way, people will not remember COVID-19 as much as they remember the people of that era. Kolbe, my older brother, is an outstanding person and one that has the attributes of a great man. With Kolbe, the list of the words describing 2020 for me personally includes independence, hard work, persistence, and hero.

Independence is something that I admire in Kolbe. This summer, he applied for three jobs and didn't get a response from any of them. Instead of waiting for someone to help his predicament, he started his own business. In the end, he probably made even more money than he would have at the other jobs. Kolbe founded KP woodworks, a deck construction company.

Currently, he is a freshman in college. Some kids' parents send them money in college for gas or food. Using the profit from his business, Kolbe needs no financial help from our parents at all. In conclusion, Kolbe is a very independent person.

Hard work is something most people try to avoid especially in an atmosphere of too much free time and Netflix. How could you get up in the morning and work if all your friends are off having fun? Kolbe wanted to be able to support himself while at college. Knowing this, Kolbe resisted the temptation to go have fun all week long and he labored at his business every day. I had the pleasure of working for him this past summer. One customer wanted a lot of tough work done but didn't really want to pay for labor or good materials. Most contractors wouldn't want to take this job. Kolbe had a goal to accomplish, so he took the job and worked to the best of his ability with what the customer was willing to give.

To be persistent is an accomplishment -- to be an inspiration of persistence is an even greater feat. Kolbe always seemed to have an abundance of persistence. While KP Woodworks is now strictly a deck construction company, it started out as a general construction company. Once in the hottest week of the summer, we were doing an insulation job. When we first arrived and opened the garage we were insulating, we were welcomed to a complete mess! The garage was chock full of stuff that we had to move multiple times to effectively complete our job. Though Kolbe was in no way legally obligated to take the job, he

completed it. It took much longer than it really needed to, but Kolbe's moral obligation and persistence brought us through to the end. I think this story is a great example of Kolbe's persistence.

We are not defined by what time we live in, but rather by what we do in the time we live in. What we say, how we react, how we live, or how we die. All people have amazing attributes and talents. Heroes are those brave enough to use their attributes and talents to achieve what they want and to help those who can't.

"Some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." -William Shakespeare, Twelfth Night.

Kolbe wasn't born with the skills he has today. His practices of persistence, hard work, and independence will allow him to size and achieve greatness, while still remaining the hero he is today.



Sponsored by

