



# MICHIGAN HERO ESSAY

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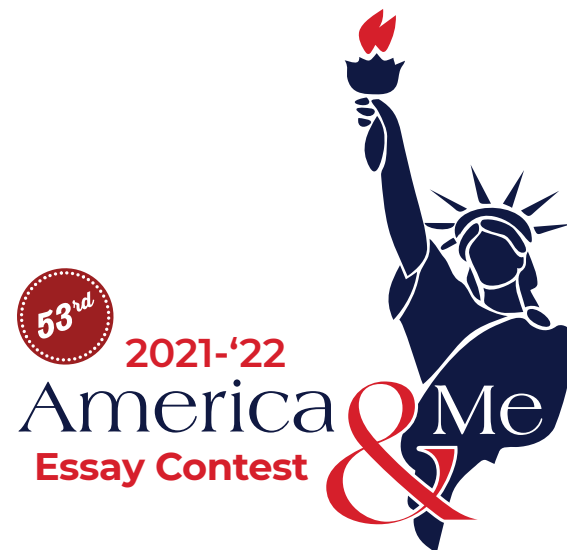
What inspires you? Are you seeking greatness or are you seeking humanity? I found myself with this question, and I thought of my friend and mentor, Barbara Luck. She's a self-made woman with a successful shop of antiques, a thriving 4-H, and she donates her time to mentor the youth of our county. She's also the president of the Crystal Falls Business Association. So, who is Barbara Luck, and what makes her my Michigan hero?

I met Barbara Luck in 2018, two years after she started her business, while attending the 4-H shooting program with my brother. I went into the store in Crystal Falls, Michigan, called Charlie's Emporium, that was filled with wonders, antiques, miscellaneous toys, and art: you name it, she had it. But having a cool shop wasn't the only thing that interested me about her. She is a strong, independent woman building a business all on her own and on her own terms. I admire her ability to stand out and be herself. I was able to show her my artwork, and she never failed to show her support for my hobby. Telling me how much I've improved and even showing me her art, something she doesn't really do, are things she does to support me. Every time I walk into her shop, it always baffles me. I enjoy every minute of the beauty that the shop holds. Barbara also decided to expand not only to have an archery range in her shop, but also become a mentor to the Iron County youth by becoming an archery instructor through the Iron County 4-H. This new adventure is all thanks to Marvin Hill, the old sharpshooter instructor and mentor who inspired her. I was apprehensive about trying archery, but I tried anyway. I kept going to archery meetings and eventually joined and became the secretary of the Artemis Archery group. I now have a mentor in Barbara Luck not only with my art, but also with archery.

I think what impresses me most about her is that she is a self-made woman who has an opinion and a strong drive to make a difference in her community. She not only wants to make her business a success, but the community a success as well. That is why she became the president of the Crystal Falls Business Association. No one wanted to be the president so she stood up to the challenge

and became the president to keep the association going for new businesses coming to the area. Calling meetings to discuss issues she sees are a problem, helping business owners with how to run a business, and more. She wants this community, even though it was not originally her own, to thrive and become the jewel that she sees.

In her, I see the person I would like to be, not just like her but just like an individual aspiring for great things in life. I'm always looking toward exploring my own talents and my own passions, living my best life and sharing my good fortune and positive attitude with the world. Life isn't about perfection it's about perfecting the life you want to live. I still have a life to live and small fears won't stop me from doing what I want with my life. That is why my inspiration, my personal Michigan hero, is Barbara Luck.



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