



## **SUNDAY GO-TO-MEETING CLOTHES**

BY

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The death of Dave Glasser after being shot Wednesday by a suspect in Laveen, Arizona made me think of my childhood. When I was a kid there was a special place in my closet for items covered by the term “Sunday go to meeting clothes.” They were special, I only use them on those occasions. On Sundays when we gather to go to church or on holidays when friends and families were coming over to visit.

David Glasser was a true hero who died in the line of duty. The thesaurus defines hero with words like superman, star, champion, conqueror, idol, brave men, somebody admired. Do all of these words fit an accurate description of David Glasser?

I have known many people over the years who were genuine heroes. It has been my experience that to a person they would become uncomfortable and uneasy when words like hero were used to describe them and their actions. I never knew David Glasser but I have met many who others including myself, have been called heroes.

It’s a funny word, one that many would aspire to as a characterization of themselves and their behavior. These aspirations are almost never discussed openly. They simply remain as thoughts and wishes like a Walter Mitty ready to fill the void of mediocrity that honestly characterizes the lives of so many.

David Glasser did what he was trained to do in that respect he was not a hero, he was simply a professional doing a dangerous professional job and performing it to the standards by which he was trained. Is that hero? On one

level the answer is clearly no. On another level he knowingly put himself in harms way and paid the ultimate price for doing so.

John 15:13 says, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.” So are we to believe that David Glasser’s behavior was an act of love? The answer is a simple yes. It was a love given to a higher calling where duty and danger meet sacrifice.

Many of the people, who daily adorn themselves with uniforms and designations that put themselves apart to perpetuate and sustain a way of life, are the heroes who would deny the label and quickly brushoff the suggestion as they went off to do their duty day after day. These men and women often substitute good judgment for the word duty. Our society counts on such people to deliver the necessities of safety, security and freedom. These people are ultimately those whom we look to when we find our freedoms in peril.

David Glasser is no more hero then the people you will see today going about their duty without fuss or folly. What makes a hero out of the “David Glasser’s” of our world? Is it the willingness to do the unnatural in a natural way? It is not normal to run into a burning building. It is not normal to stay put or advance when others attempt to take your life with deadly force. It is not normal to hold your position when your basic instincts tell you this is dangerous and you could die.

And so today I will see many real heroes who are prepared to make the sacrifice that David Glasser made a few days ago that cost him his life. The life of his wife and two children are changed forever by his death.

He will occupy our thoughts and feelings for the days to come until we put him to rest with ceremony and words like hero. David Glasser is a genuine HERO. But that word should be like my “Sunday Go To Meeting Clothes” only brought out for special occasions.

David Glasser was an ordinary man who did an extraordinary thing, when with his colleagues, he was called upon to act in a circumstance that resulted in dire consequences. His name could have been anyone of the police officers that put their life on the line that day.

With that definition it is safe to say that they are all men and women who are prepared to behave in a self-sacrificing manner. That really may be referred to as heroic behavior when duty calls and sacrifice is required.

I think about those special clothes that hung at the end of my closet waiting for a special day. It's like the word hero, it should only be used on special occasions. We've been through this word around and similar words to describe mundane actions like studying hard to get a good grade in school, and doing what is expected by parents and teachers. Even simply behaving properly and doing the right thing.

There is a time and place to use the word hero. And the behavior of David Glasser is one of them. And so Officer Glasser, when we gather to say goodbye to you and to honor you for your sacrifice on our behalf I will be there.

And yes, I will be wearing my "Sunday go to meeting clothes," because this truly will be a special day. It will be a day to say goodbye to a genuine hero. God bless you for what you have done on behalf of all of us who will never know you but, have benefited from your views, values and actions.

Thank you sir!

Glendale, May 19, 2016

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