

## American Heroes

*By Diane Parker*

I have many heroes; most I don't know personally or have never met. They are the warriors, men and women who have gone off to wars, donning a military uniform, to protect my American rights and hopefully to keep my homeland safe.

There are the men and women who dared to defy a dominating white society and fight for equal rights ... to vote, to sit anywhere they wanted to on a public bus, in a restaurant, a movie theater.

There are the nurses, doctors, research scientists and so many more floor staff members from the past and in the present who believe in the oath to care for and help preserve lives in the thousands of hospitals, nursing homes and shelters who tirelessly put their own health safety at risk.

These are heroes, white, black, American Native, Asian, people of all nations and cultures who take chances, dare to make a difference in their neighbors' lives.

The volunteers that give their time to agencies that otherwise would not be able to keep their doors open to the needy, the homeless, and the pet adoption facilities.

There are heroes who fight forest fires, town fires and answer emergency calls to vehicle accidents, elderly and senior facilities.

How about the fallen heroes who put their lives on the line in New York City during the 9-11? Let's not forget the four-legged heroes who worked side-by-side with their trainers that found so many bodies in the Twin Towers.

Hospitals, senior facilities, homeless shelters ... the staff, employees and volunteers working around the clock while our government is figuring out how to deal with the COVID-19 that is destroying thousands of lives from the Atlantic ocean east to the Pacific ocean west.

We have a nation of unsung heroes. They come in all sizes, ages, colors and cultural beliefs. I may not have met most of these heroes in person but I don't need to, I know they are there by the way a crisis gets taken care of. How fast people can shift into gear, put their own personal feelings aside and stick their necks out in the public and say "Hey what can I do to help?"

America is blessed with thousands of faceless heroes most of us will never know about; what they did because most of these people don't consider themselves heroes, they are doing their jobs because it's what they do best. Their names will never be read in the newspapers, *People Magazine* or announced on prime time news channels or CNN.