

Super Individuals

By Hap Hansen

There is sometimes great value to us average Americans as we establish Champions as a part of our lives. Champions give us all something to look up to, something to aspire to, and something that may make our lives a little better. Champions can be anybody. But mostly our Champions come from the military, politics, athletics and from music and the arts. Champions can even be fictitious. What child wouldn't want to be like Superman, Batman, Spiderman and all the others who successfully chased villains and brought them to swift justice?

Some Champions start out as pretty standard men and women. But some event or some circumstance changed them instantly from the average man or woman into super individuals, at least on a temporary basis. Saving people from fires, accidents, drownings, heart attacks and dozens of other disasters, sometimes drives even the most quiet and reticent individuals into action. Most of them, however, just want to go back to being average people following their heroic action, because being a Champion is sometimes a continuing burden they do not wish to bear. In addition we sometimes take this Champion business too seriously. We put on pedestals those heroic folks who have feet of clay just like the rest of us. As an example, our military, sports and entertainment Champions have just as many problems as some of the rest of us, who deal constantly with disease, personal relationships, business problems, finances, boredom and even death. We demand more of our famous, well-known Champions. We don't seem to mind that many of them make enormous amounts of money, but we are severely disappointed, sometimes devastated, when our famous Champions commit all kinds of crimes, do drugs, cheat on their income taxes and beat their spouses. How could they possibly have done that sort of thing?

Many of our Champions may lead more interesting and exciting lives than the rest of us. And most of the famous ones make a heckuva lot more money. But they have just as many problems as we do, perhaps more. And we need to know that Champions screw up too! If we can't accept that, our alternatives are to consider as Champions those fictitious characters that only exist in comic books and movies.