

(NAPS)—Since September 11, 2001, Americans have learned what it means to be a hero. We have seen heroes in action, watched them on our TVs, seen what we believed were ordinary people face up to extraordinary challenges. We have seen them die heroic deaths so that others might live. Knowing their sacrifices, we feel a little smaller as individuals and a little bigger as a nation.

When we think of America's heroes, we remember those who rushed into the burning buildings of September 11 and those who braved the enemy cockpit of a doomed aircraft, and also Americans of the more distant past, such as those who died in the wars commemorated on holidays such as Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

Today, we can still walk in the footsteps of America's heroes, though the remnants of these real people who rose to unreal heights, shaping our nation and ourselves. We find inspiration in where they lived and worked and we protect these places for all generations as part of the National Park System.

For example, Clara Barton's home in Glen Echo, Maryland, is preserved as a national historic site, commemorating her work as the founder of the American Red Cross. Barton's life speaks to us of how adversity is an essential strength. The Civil War transformed her from a schoolteacher and government clerk into a force of compassion, traveling the front lines with the Union Army, tending to the ill and wounded and raising donations of medical supplies. In the 1870s, while providing medical aid in France during the Franco-Prussian War, she learned about the Red Cross and subsequently



Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, lived in this house from 1897 until her death in 1912. It is now under the care of the National Park System, which protects more than 100 national historic sites.

founded the American version. As to her head, she showed up at floods, earthquakes, forest fires—anywhere that emergency help was needed. She remains an inspiration to those who seek to help suffering humanity.

Inspiration finds us, too, at the national historic site that was the Washington, D.C. home of a man born into slavery who died wealthy and respected: Frederick Douglass. A journalist who focused on racial issues and spoke for the equality of all people before the law, Douglass provided counsel to presidents and fought for the end of slavery. His autobiography still offers hope to anyone struggling against overwhelming odds. He was born the property of another man, but left behind a legacy of freedom.

California hosts a different type of park, one that reminds us of the heroic efforts of ordinary

people doing ordinary work at a dangerous and critical time in our history: The Rosie the Riveter National Historical Site is dedicated to the women who fought on the home front during World War II, armed not with weapons of destruction but of industry, building ships and other needed supplies without which the war effort would have collapsed.

The historic sites of the National Park System have become the touchstones of a heroic spirit. For information on these parks, how to get to them, and what you'll find there, visit www.nps.gov, the Web site of the National Parks Conservation Association, America's only private, nonprofit, national-park-advocacy organization. At times of commemoration, visit the parks for inspiration and for contact with the hopes and aspirations of America.

NEWSWORTHY TRENDS

Contrary To Corporate Trend, Workers Remain Committed To Volunteering

(NAPS)—American workers are committed to volunteering. At the same time, they believe employers are actually pulling back from community involvement.

That's a key finding of a recent Prudential Financial survey showing that 80 percent of employees express a willingness to participate in company volunteer programs.

However, only 64 percent of those surveyed believe their employers support or encourage volunteerism. That's a 12 percent decline since 1998. And, according to the survey, only two of five companies that do provide volunteer programs encourage family involvement.

Other findings of the survey include:

- Fewer than half of those surveyed report that their employer sponsors volunteer programs.

- A vast majority of part-time employees—83 percent—say they would participate in a corporate-sponsored volunteer program.

- In the 35-to-44 age group, 51 percent of employees say their employer encourages family participation in company-sponsored volunteer programs.

But, not all companies are pulling back. Prudential Financial, for example, continues to expand its Global Volunteer Day, now in its eighth year.

Global Volunteer Day started as Prudential Financial's National



A recent survey suggests that employees welcome volunteer programs sponsored by their employers.

Volunteer Day

"We wanted something that would get many employees involved in their communities along with their families and friends," said Gabriella Morris, president of The Prudential Foundation and vice president of community resources. This grew into a Prudential tradition that is making a difference in communities across the globe.

The first Volunteer Day in 1995 involved more than 5,000 Prudential employees and their families in over 100 community service projects. Volunteers picked the organization in their community for which they would volunteer.

Global Volunteer Day is held the first Saturday in October. In 2001, there were 37,000 volunteers that participated in 837 projects in 18 countries, all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The volunteers consisted of employees and their families and friends.

Children are invited to participate as well, depending on the age of the child, location of the project and the type of work being done.

Prudential associates and their neighbors collected food, worked at food banks and soup kitchens, cleaned parks and camps, painted shelters and schools, fixed senior citizens' homes and held Halloween parties for children in need.

"For more than a century, Prudential has been committed to contributing resources to the communities in which we have a presence," said Art Ryan, Chairman and CEO of Prudential Financial, Inc.

"The need of these communities has never been greater than it is today," added Ryan. "Global Volunteer Day is a simple extension of Prudential's commitment to and involvement in communities around the world. It's part of the fabric of our company."

To learn more about the survey or strategies for corporate involvement that could be used by other employers, visit the Web site at www.prudential.com.



Pictured above are some of the students from Mt. Vernon and Brodhead who attended the 10th Annual Farm Field Day held in October at the farm of Bill Gene and Nancy Sigmon. The event is held annually for 4th/5th graders in the county. Sponsors of this event are Sigmon Farm, Rockcastle Co. Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Cons. Service. Thanks to all who donated for lunch, and to those who volunteered to work, speak or drive a tractor.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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We appreciate your patronage in 2002
and look forward to serving you in 2003.



from

Rockcastle Circuit Court Clerk

Teresa Vanzant

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Closed Dec. 24 - Dec. 25 and Dec. 30 - Jan. 1st