

Joe Beaudoin  
10/25/01

## **D.A.R. Nomination Essay**

Being nominated for the 2002 Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award, I was asked to prepare an essay explaining how I've demonstrated "outstanding leadership, service, dependability and patriotism." Though as I labored on my approach to this—or even to do it at all—I had not known how to explain these attributes. Actually, to tell the truth, I really cannot. I'll explain.

I think it should be realized now that I do not have the makings of a leader. I prefer to work in whatever manner I will; I prefer to work alone, or with people I *know* are dependable (as opposed to any random group of people, who are undependable most of the time); and I prefer to work with rules merely as a guide, not as gospel. With all due respect to those whom read this, I am ill suited to identify how I demonstrate the attributes you ask me to define. In reality, there is no sense in me doing thus, for it is ultimately up to *you* and whatever assigned group who will name Cheney Tech's Good Citizen.

As for the makings of a leader: in my humble opinion, leaders are those who do not lie, do not cheat, and dedicate a majority of their time and whatever resources they wield to an objective. Leaders also inspire people to better themselves. I have done none of these things. I have cheated on tests, copied homework that I had neglected to do the night before, dawdled in the meaningless things and have yet to achieve anything that I ultimately wanted. Worst yet, I've lied because I feel that people would neither respect me nor leave me to my own devices; of course, I have since learned that lying to protect oneself from the vapidity of fellow persons is futile.

Yet even still, I also believe that true leaders are not encouraged by pieces of parchment or materials symbolizing awards. Individuals who are truly serious about committing themselves to achieving something could care less about getting an award for their work; if anything, the desire for an award is an afterthought. In actuality, awards are merely one of the lesser-mentioned forms of discrimination, singling out the "more deserving people" from the "rest". Despite an award's attempt to rationalize "recognizing" a person's achievements, in reality it is only an attempt to incite others to emulate that person—and also evoking jealousy, in the name of "bettering oneself". Which would explain the ceremonies that have become commonplace nowadays, but never questioned for it is the "status quo".

There are certainly other factors at work, also; however, one thing I do know for certain: awards are an effect of a world of a narcissistic nature. In a way, it could be said that awards also promote ego-trips to the unprepared and play on their desire for alleged absolutes of power and wealth. Regrettably, this society I am a part of cannot or is unwilling to recognize that all a person truly needs is self-encouragement, self-initiative and the knowledge that they have done a good job.

Therefore, I request that you not consider me for this award, and that you award it to someone who fits the requirements you seek. Forgive me if it may sound insulting, but I'll state this bluntly: it is evident to me that this nomination was ill chosen, however you have been given the opportunity to rectify this error in judgment. While I am dismayed by this nomination, I do wish to extend my gratitude for allowing me to take this opportunity to express my opinions and why I feel the way I do... although I do regret not being able to further elaborate on how I've come to the conclusions that I've come to.