

“Upon whom can you depend?”

By: Jack Muellerleile

Hypothetical Situation:

You are surrounded and grossly outnumbered. The enemy is intent upon killing you, your entire family, your friends, your neighbors...then burning your homes to the ground, thus eradicating everything about you.

You possess comparable armaments. The only wildcards are in the persons of those individuals comprising your fighting force.

Who do you want standing with you against such an enemy under these circumstances? Make up your own list.

My Picks Include:

- All the defenders of the Alamo against General Santa Ana's army in the War for Texas Independence.
- General George M. Patton – Historian, Strategist, Field Leader.
- General Fred Franks, Jr. (Ret.) – Field Commander / Desert Storm.
- John Galt – fictional character in “Atlas Shrugged” novel by Ayn Rand...copyright 1957.
- The Sackett Family circa 1600-1879 – fictional characters in a series of books by Louis L'Amour.
- Rooster Cogburn – fictional character played by John Wayne in movie “True Grit”.
- Rambo – fictional film character played by Sylvester Stallone.
- Zeb MacCahan – fictional character played by James Arness in movie “How The West Was Won”.
- General Ben Raines – fictional character in The Ashes Series of books by William W. Johnstone, (plus all the character's followers who embraced his “Tri-State Philosophy”).
- Cecil E. Muellerleile – the writer's father.
- Robert E. Keaney, Sr. – the writer's uncle & godfather.
- Richard Muellerleile – the writer's cousin & recipient of our nation's Medal of Honor.
- Michael J. Muellerleile – the writer's son.
- Fr. James A. Leikert, S.J. – V.P. & Disciplinarian at the writer's high school.
- Alex Zyskinski – QB, the writer's high school football team.
- Ralph Kubinski – FB, the writer's college football team.
- Andy Russell – LB, the writer's college football team.

- Conrad Hitchler – DE, the writer’s college football team.
- Tom Hertz – PG, the writer’s college football team.
- Col. Oliver North – USMC (Ret.)
- Geronimo – Apache warrior.
- Crazy Horse – Lakota Sioux warrior

Why this bunch?

Facing overwhelming odds and a potentially imminent disaster including the loss of all that is cherished, the folks listed above would instill a belief in our prospect for survival because, as a team, our fighting force would possess all or most of the following beliefs, characteristics, personal attitudes and attributes:

- Confidence in own abilities...no second guessing.
- Keen, sharp, alert mind...focused, attentive.
- Quick decision maker...creates order out of chaos.
- Courageous...values the lives of others above his own.
- Loyalty to family, friends...unimpressed by rumor mill chatter.
- Slow to judge others...slow to anger.
- Single-mindedness of purpose – not easily distracted.
- Persistence – never quits...steadfastness.
- Determination – overcomes all obstacles...not easily discouraged.
- Risk taker...willing to place himself in harm’s way.
- Skilled at fighting, not easily injured or killed.
- Self-disciplined, ordered, organized, methodical, well-prepared.
- Self-initiative...creative thinker...can improvise.
- Drive, stamina, unstoppable in the attack mode.
- High order of personal integrity.
- Killer instinct...won’t hesitate, good finisher.
- Capable of controlled violence, regularly administered.
- Able to give or receive orders equally well.
- Leadership qualities.
- Followership abilities.
- “Can Do” attitude.
- Stoically calm facing adversity.
- Team spirit.
- At ease with himself.
- “Make It Happen” philosophy.
- Belief in a self-determined future.

Would not some or all of the above beliefs, characteristics, personal attitudes and attributes serve us well in our daily lives?

...at work?

...at home?

...at play?

...even when you are alone?

In the work-a-day world, all of the above are not essential ingredients in the formula for success. After all, most of us don't face life or death situations in the work place, do we? However, at work or at home or at play, becoming the best we can become does require one irreplaceable item...persistence. On the job, *"nothing in the world can take the place of PERSISTENCE. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful people with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education alone will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. PERSISTENCE and DETERMINATION alone are omnipotent."* *

Therefore, we should all...PRESS ON!!

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* author unknown