

AMSPECBLOG

Drew Achillich: American

By Jeffrey Lord on 5.21.10 @ 3:40PM

OK.

What do I think?

I think Drew Achillich is an American hero. A microcosm of America. And I'll tell you why he deserves some space here.

But first...I do believe we call these moments "full disclosure." Young Mr. Achillich is my favorite cousin Steve's youngest son. Oh, and Mom Jan (aka "Sam") was, I believe, involved in Drew's production as well. (Steve is my favorite cousin, he thinks, because I never tell him about my favorite cousins Judy, Suzy, Jane, Beth, Bruce, Marnie, Schuyler, Dottie Ann, Mary, Theresa, Ken, Robin, Dan, Ruth, Janet...whew, I think they're all listed, if not, this will be my last posting. Don't forget spouses and Drew's cousinly generation, The Spawn. You, dear readers, not only get the deal, you undoubtedly share the dilemma of making sure all are mentioned -- in parental order -- or, well, let's not go there.)

So what has 16-year-old Drew done that earns him a spot here at the internationally famous AmSpecBlog that is filled with items on presidents and celebrities? What has he learned from his parents, his family, and a tour of Washington's Mt. Vernon, where he and older brother Pearson seemed years ago to be...ahhhhh...challenging?

Take a look here at this video clip.

What you see is Drew -- at the ripe old age of 16 -- voluntarily taking it upon himself to help the victims of a recent and devastating local flood out there in the vicinity of the family homestead in Riverhead, Long Island. That would be Horton Avenue, by name, not far from the Long Island Sound-side family headquarters. Drew elected to do this by selling T-shirts. No profit for Drew, or Dad Steve who helped. Just your basic execution of the Second Commandment as expressed in Mark 12:31: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

There is no government program involved. Your taxes are not raised. Some would even call this an example of American Exceptionalism. There is no financial profit for Drew or

Steve. Just a bit of hands-on work to help less-well-off neighbors unknown.

Take a good look again. From, literally, the Pilgrims to the astronauts, from Washington to Lincoln to Reagan, from Daniel Boone to Thomas Edison to Bill Gates, to you and your family, what Drew is doing here is an utterly American act that is replicated a thousand times every single day by American citizens unknown. What George H.W. Bush once called "a thousand points of light." Understanding a need, rolling up sleeves, not waiting for permission from some government agency -- just getting the job done. And doing it, more often than not, while being completely unknown.

Unknown except in this case...which gets some shameless PR from Drew's favorite relative (that's right, isn't it Drew?) because *Newsday*...your basic MSM publication...unknowingly involved my own family in reporting on Drew's good works. A family which, you can be sure, Republicans and Democrats, conservatives and liberals alike, is terribly proud of Drew.

One T-shirt order please, Drewie. Size Large (Hey, I like a little extra room, pal!). I'll cough up when we share a lobster this summer.

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