



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on May 7, 2024

Published in the May 27, 2024 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 40, No. 10

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## **The Goodness of America**

### **The “Puck” Stops Here**

During a Cleveland Monsters hockey game on April 11 in Akron, Ohio, a heart-pounding incident unfolded as a vigilant man shielded a young boy from a flying hockey puck, WKYC reported.

Asia Davis, the boy’s mother, recounted the harrowing moment when a puck suddenly hurtled toward her four-year-old son, Nasir, threatening injury. Video footage captured the heart-stopping scene as the puck careened toward Nasir, only to be deflected by the man beside him, later identified as Andrew Podolak.

Davis took to the internet seeking to express her gratitude to the unidentified hero who had selflessly protected her son. Later, she had the opportunity to connect with Podolak, who modestly expressed his belief that fate had brought him to that precise moment to safeguard Nasir.

Podolak’s spontaneous act of heroism not only spared Nasir from potential harm, but also united the community in a shared moment of gratitude and celebration.

### **Subway’s Newest “Hero”**

At a Subway restaurant in Indianapolis, a quick-thinking man, Gabriel Pitzulo, sprang into action to protect a worker in distress.

As Pitzulo, a former high-school wrestler turned welder, entered the establishment for lunch on March 22, he noticed a commotion and sensed trouble. A man was harassing and threatening a female employee, escalating to the point of physical assault. Without hesitation, Pitzulo intervened. Drawing on his background in combat sports, Pitzulo managed to restrain the man without causing serious harm, showing remarkable control and compassion in a volatile situation.

Fox News reported that video footage captured the decisive moment that Pitzulo, clad in a dark jacket, tackled the man, ensuring he could not harm the employee. With the situation under control, others in the restaurant locked the doors and alerted law enforcement. Pitzulo’s actions were praised by police, who arrived and took the attacker into custody.

The assailant, identified as Daniel Saunders, was charged with battery resulting in bodily injury and disorderly conduct. The restaurant manager expressed gratitude to Pitzulo for his brave intervention, offering him free sandwiches for life as a token of appreciation.

Reflecting on the incident, Pitzulo expressed concern for the female employee’s safety, noting that she appeared defenseless against the attacker’s threats.

In response to the attention his actions garnered, he also emphasized the importance of standing up for others, particularly innocent individuals facing danger. He rejected notions of toxic masculinity, advocating instead for a culture of courage and protection within communities, and attributed his bravery to divine guidance.

### **Fiery Rescue**

On a Saturday morning in Honolulu, William Kuahine, a volunteer firefighter and fuel transfer worker



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for Island Energy Services, found himself in a remarkable situation, according to KHON2. While running errands with his wife on March 22, Kuahine noticed smoke billowing from an apartment building in the Manoa neighborhood.

Responding to the unfolding emergency, Kuahine quickly assessed the situation and took action. He first ensured the safe evacuation of residents from unaffected units, guiding them to safety. Then, upon reaching the burning apartment, he attempted to alert its occupants, knocking on the door in a bid to warn them. When there was no response, Kuahine carefully tested the door for safety before entering the unit, accompanied by another bystander.

Inside the apartment, they were met with a daunting scene — flames engulfed the space, threatening to spread further. Despite the intense heat and smoke, Kuahine and his companion conducted a thorough search, confirming that no one was trapped inside.

Reflecting on the incident, Kuahine credited his training and sense of duty for guiding his actions. He emphasized the importance of community and expressed gratitude for the assistance of others who also stepped in to help during the crisis. Fortunately, no injuries were reported among the building's residents, thanks in part to their heroic intervention.

Following the incident, Kuahine received recognition from the local fire department, particularly from the crew of Manoa's Engine 22.

## **A Starry Reunion**

In 1978, while teaching a high-school science class in Rochester, New York, Patrick Moriarty made a lighthearted promise to his students: They would gather together to witness the solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, which would pass through Rochester. Little did he know that this joke would turn into a heartwarming reunion nearly 50 years later.

As the years passed, Moriarty kept the promise in the back of his mind. With the advent of social media, he created a Facebook group to reconnect with former students and see if they remembered his pledge. To his surprise, the group gained traction, and hundreds of his former students expressed interest in attending the eclipse event.

Moriarty went all out, hiring a local pizzeria to cater the gathering and purchasing 130 pairs of eclipse glasses, *The Washington Post* reported. The atmosphere was filled with laughter and nostalgia as old classmates reminisced and joked about the passing years. Despite the decades that had gone by, the bond between teacher and students remained strong.

Before the eclipse, Moriarty returned to his role as educator, giving a lesson on the science behind the phenomenon. When the eclipse finally occurred, it was a breathtaking sight, but the real magic was in the shared experience of former students coming together to fulfill a decades-old promise.

Reflecting on the event, Moriarty expressed gratitude for the opportunity to have made a positive impact on his students' lives. The reunion reaffirmed his belief in the lasting impact teachers can have, and left him with a sense of fulfillment.



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