



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on August 21, 2017

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Goodness of America

Honoring Our Veterans

Two years ago, 10-year-old Preston Sharp was disappointed during a Veteran's Day visit to his grandfather's grave in Redding, California, when he found a complete absence of flags and flowers on the headstones of the cemetery's veterans. He decided then and there that he was going to change that, CBS News reported.

Preston started a program that has since grown into a significant endeavor. He began working little jobs here and there to save money so he could purchase American flags and flowers for the gravestones. After placing the markers at each grave in McDonald's Cemetery, where his grandfather is laid to rest, he then concentrated his efforts on the next local cemetery — and then the next one — as he made his way through area cemeteries.

He decided to start a GoFundMe page to raise money so that he could purchase enough flags and flowers for each grave in every veteran cemetery between Redding and Sacramento. His page raised over \$30,000.

Two years later, the now 12-year-old Preston has managed to place markers on the graves of 23,000 veterans by doing it every week, in all types of weather.

"They were out there in the rain doing their job, protecting us," he told CBS News.

And Preston's goodness has not gone unnoticed. According to CBS News, when a local community heard that Preston would be visiting its area cemetery, people came out in droves to offer their assistance. According to Vietnam veteran Fred Loveland, it's because Preston's goodness is contagious: "What he's doing brings them out, because they can't believe that a young man in this country is doing what he does."

Human Chain Saves the Day

A day at the beach is usually a relaxing experience. Unfortunately for the Ursrey family, it was anything but relaxing at Panama City Beach, Florida, on July 8, but thanks to the kindness and quick thinking of nearly 80 strangers, it did not have a tragic ending.

Roberta Ursrey was lounging at Panama City Beach when she noticed her sons were out a bit too far. She yelled for help, and she and several of her family members swam out to get to them, but they got caught in a strong current. Before long, six family members were stuck in 15 feet of water, the *Panama City News Herald* reported, and four strangers who tried to rescue them were caught in the same predicament.

There was no lifeguard on duty, according to the *Washington Post*, and nearby law enforcement elected to wait for a rescue boat. But meanwhile, the stranded swimmers were getting desperate.

What happened next is amazing. Beachgoers realized that it was futile to swim out to the stranded swimmers in an effort to save them, as they too would get caught in the strong current, so they started shouting, "Form a human chain!"

It began with just five people, and then progressed to 15 and before long, to dozens upon dozens of



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beachgoers. Once the chain was approximately 80 people long, two strong swimmers, Jessica and Derek Simmons, swam to the stranded swimmers, and one at a time, handed them to the chain, which passed them along all the way back to the shore.

During the ordeal, Ursrey's mother, Barbara Franz, who was also stuck in the water, began to have a heart attack. When onlookers heard this, more joined the chain, making it even longer, according to Ursrey. The chain successfully got her to shore, and Franz was immediately rushed to the hospital, where she recovered.

One hour after the terrifying ordeal began, all 10 swimmers were back on the shore, saved by the incredible human chain. The entire beach applauded, Ursrey recalled.

"It was beachgoers and the grace of God's will," Ursrey said. "That's why we're here today."

A Man With Two Brides

Is Will Seaton of Santa Claus, Indiana, a bigamist for "proposing" to both his long-time girlfriend, Ashley Schaus, and her sister, Hannah? Nope, he's just a really nice guy.

The *New York Post* reported that when Ashley and Will began dating seven years ago, she made one thing clear to him. She and her sister, Hannah, were a package deal. Hannah is 15 years old and has Down syndrome, and Ashley has always made it a point to make sure Hannah felt included. Ashley has even made it clear that she will take over as Hannah's legal guardian when their parents are no longer fit to care for her.

Fox 5 reported that Hannah has been a significant presence in the couple's relationship, even joining them on the majority of their dates.

So when Will decided that he wanted to spend the rest of his life with Ashley, he knew that meant he would spend the rest of his life with Hannah too. And he wanted to make it clear that he not only accepted that reality, but embraced it, and in doing so, he made Hannah feel really special. Before he proposed to Ashley on March 8, he got on his knee and asked Hannah if she would be his "best friend" forever. And when she said yes, he then turned to Ashley and asked her to be his wife.

"I was very surprised. Will is wonderful, but he's rather humble and so this gesture blew me away. She was so happy, and all I could think about was how special this was for her," Ashley told WXIN.

Seaton was so prepared for the moment that he even had a ring for Hannah — an heirloom that had belonged to the sisters' grandmother.

And as for the wedding, planned for October, Ashley states that Hannah will have a major role. She and Will will even be exchanging best friend vows and will have a first dance to the song "Best Friend" by Harry Nilsson.

Hannah adores Will and is thrilled that he is marrying her sister. "He takes me fishing and makes funny jokes," she said. "He makes me laugh and takes care of me."

It seems Ashley may have found the perfect match — someone who accepts that he will always be one-third of a whole.

— Raven Clabough



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