



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on January 21, 2019

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Goodness of America

In Memory of a Dear Friend

Twelve-year-old Kaleb Klakulak honored his best friend, K.J. Gross, in a way no child should ever have to consider, in this story out of Warren, Michigan.

Gross and Klakulak became fast friends when Klakulak's parents divorced and he moved to Warren. Like Gross, he was shy and struggled to make friends at his new school, but the two boys found comfort in each other and discovered that they had a lot in common.

Kaleb's mom, Kristy Hall, recalls, "I think they liked each other because they 'got' each other," she said. "They were both able to just be themselves and be together without having to impress the other one."

Sadly, Gross died in May after a long battle with leukemia, and Klakulak was devastated. Beyond mourning the loss of his best friend, Klakulak was saddened to learn that Gross' family could not afford a gravestone for Gross' grave. He decided he wanted to help.

Hall told CNN, "He slowly started saying things like, 'Mom, how much does a headstone cost?'"

Klakulak began taking odd jobs and collecting soda bottles to save money. With the help of his mom and her friends, Klakulak saved a lot of bottles and exchanged them for recycling deposits. He also set up a PayPal account in December and asked for donations for the gravestone, setting a goal of \$2,500.

Donations poured in, and Klakulak quickly raised the money needed for the gravestone. Gross' mother, LaSondra Singleton, was moved to tears when Klakulak and his mother gave her the money for the headstone.

"I cried because it was unexpected. I cried because I'm trying to figure out things from day to day," Singleton told CNN. "I can see his final resting place. I have a place I can go and be with him."

She told CNN it speaks to "how genuine and how beautiful K.J.'s heart was" because he attracted people such as Kaleb.

"It's a bittersweet thing because it's finalizing everything for me," she said. "I've wanted to get his headstone, but at the same time it's making everything final for me."

The Kindness of Strangers

An unidentified stranger at Chandler Eyecare in Chandler, Arizona, was more than happy to help a veteran in need when he or she learned that the veteran could not afford a new pair of glasses, 3TV/CBS 5 reported.

Jacob Sweeney, a veteran of the Marines and the Army National Guard, spent 18 years serving the country before a car accident forced him to end his military career early. Sweeney visited Chandler Eyecare on November 28 to get a new pair of glasses but learned that even with the store's veteran discount, the \$280 price tag was simply out of his reach.

He told the clerk that he did not have the funds to pay for the glasses and hoped to return another time when he had the money, but unbeknownst to him, he wouldn't have to. He went home with those glasses, thanks to the goodness of a complete stranger. "Someone had heard our conversation, paid for my glasses, out of the kindness of their heart," Sweeney said.



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Sweeney was touched by the stranger's good deed. "I would like to say thank you to them, if they're watching this, thank you very much," Sweeney said during his television interview.

Here, Take My Seat

On December 6, Kelsey Rae Zwick was flying from Orlando to Philadelphia with her 11-month-old daughter, Lucy, to visit the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) for treatment of Lucy's chronic lung disease when a stranger performed a simple act of kindness that brought Zwick to tears. Zwick was so moved by the good deed that she took to Facebook in the hopes of finding the passenger and offering a proper note of gratitude.

"I was pushing a stroller, had a diaper bag on my arm and also lugging an oxygen machine for my daughter," wrote Zwick in an open Facebook letter to the passenger. "We had smiles on our faces as we were headed to see her 'friends' at CHOP."

As Zwick and her daughter settled into their seats, a flight attendant approached them to inform them that a man in first class had offered to switch seats with her.

"Not able to hold back tears, I cried my way up the aisle while my daughter Lucy laughed!" wrote Zwick. "She felt it in her bones too... real, pure, goodness. I smiled and thanked you as we switched but didn't get to thank you properly."

"Sooo... thank you. Not just for the seat itself but for noticing. For seeing us and realizing that maybe things are not always easy. For deciding you wanted to show a random act of kindness to US. It reminded me how much good there is in this world. I can't wait to tell Lucy someday. In the meantime... we will pay it forward."

The post was shared hundreds of thousands of times, ultimately enabling American Airlines to track down the passenger who gave up his seat: Jason Kunselman, a frequent flier who admits that he was brought to tears when he saw Zwick and her young daughter board the plane with medical equipment.

Lucy is a twin born 11 weeks early who suffers from complications resulting from her premature birth, requiring her to receive lung treatment at the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia.

"I expected to see her in the front since she had the oxygen machine with her but when I boarded she was in the back," Kunselman told the U.K. *Daily Mail*. "So I asked the flight attendant if she thought the young lady with the baby would be more comfortable in my seat."

For Kunselman, the gesture was a simple act of kindness, one that he did not expect to bring him the attention that it has. It wasn't until his wife spotted Zwick's post that he even gave it much thought, he admitted.

American Airlines issued its own response to the story: "We truly appreciate the kindness of the gentleman in 2D. We were able to connect the two of them together, and our team is reaching out to him as well to extend our thanks for the kind gesture. In the words of Kelsey, we also want to pay it forward with our thanks and appreciation," a spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, Zwick says that Kunselman's good deed reminded her how "blessed" she was.

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