

Slain for Helping Another

Courage inspires us. The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines the word as “mental or moral strength to venture, persevere and withstand danger, fear or difficulty.”

Paul Keating exemplified it. His story is related by Max Lucado in his book *You Changed My Life: Stories of Real People with Remarkable Hearts*.

Keating was little-known but gutsy. On a cold night in February 1980, Keating, age 27, was walking home in Manhattan’s Greenwich Village when he saw two armed muggers robbing a college student.

Keating – a gentle, much-admired photographer for *Time* magazine – had every reason to avoid trouble. He didn’t know the student. No one knew he saw the crime. He was outnumbered.

He had nothing to gain and much to lose by taking the risk, and yet he jumped on the muggers.

The victim escaped and ran to a nearby deli to call for help. Moments later, two shots cracked the night, and the muggers fled.

Paul Keating was found dead on the pavement. He had paid the ultimate price to save the life of a stranger. His act revealed his courage and character.

The City of New York posthumously awarded him a medal of heroism. New York Mayor Edward Koch said at the ceremony: “Nobody was watching Paul Keating on the street that night. Nobody made him step forward in the time of crisis. He did it because of who he was.”



Courage and character are much admired. Like that of Maria Numa, certified nursing assistant at Life Care Center of Gwinnett in Lawrenceville, Georgia. She realized one of her residents had not seen her son in several years since he lived many hours away. She contacted the son on her personal time and paid for him and his fiancée to come for a four-day visit, including flights and hotels.

For her compassion and service, Numa was honored last September as the Eastern Division *Whatever It Takes And Then Some* winner for 2013. She didn’t do it to win an award. She did it for who she is.

The Bible has a remarkable story of responding to people in need – one with somewhat similar circumstances to what Keating found.

Jesus tells about a man who was robbed and beaten, and how others refused to help: *But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was and when he saw him, he took pity on him ... Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him* (Luke 10:33-34 NIV).