

# The Cost to Easy Eddie

World War II produced many heroes. One was Butch O'Hare. He was a fighter pilot assigned to an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific. On February 20, 1942, while on a mission, he looked at his fuel gauge and realized someone had forgotten to top off his fuel tank.

Unable to complete his mission, he turned around and headed back for the aircraft carrier. As he flew, he saw a squadron of Japanese Zeroes going straight for the American fleet. All of the American fighters were out on a sortie, leaving the fleet virtually defenseless.

O'Hare dove into the formation of Japanese planes in a desperate move to divert them away from the fleet. After a frightening air battle, the Japanese airplanes broke off their assault on the fleet. Butch O'Hare's tattered fighter limped back to the carrier. He was recognized as a hero and given the Congressional Medal of Honor. O'Hare International Airport in Chicago is named after him.

Some years earlier, there was a man in Chicago called Easy Eddie. In those days, Al Capone virtually owned the city. Capone's mob was involved in bootlegging booze, murder and prostitution. Easy Eddie was Al Capone's lawyer and kept Big Al out of jail. In return, Easy Eddie earned big money and lived like a king on an estate so large it filled an entire city block.

But Easy Eddie had one soft spot – a son whom he loved dearly. Eddie saw that his son had the best of everything: clothes, cars and a good education. Despite Eddie's involvement with the mob, he tried to teach his son right from wrong. Eddie wanted his son to be a better man than he was.

But there were two things Eddie could not give his son – a good name and a good example. Deciding that giving his son these two things was more important than lavishing him with riches, Eddie had to rectify the wrong he had done. He went to the authorities and told them the truth about Al Capone.

Easy Eddie eventually testified in court against Al Capone and the mob. He knew the cost would be great, but he wanted to be an example to his son and leave him with a good name.

Within a year of testifying against the mob, Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire on a lonely Chicago street. He had given his son the greatest gift he had to offer at the greatest price he would ever pay.

What do these stories have to do with one another? Butch O'Hare was Easy Eddie's son.

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Titus 2:6-8 advises: "Encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us."

--Beecher Hunter