

## ***“The Power of Eagles”***

***There is no way I can ever know just how many lives my father influenced for the better, but I’ve met hundreds of people all over the world who recall him fondly. A man I met at The Persepolis in Iran said he never would have gone to college if Daddy hadn’t given him a “kick in the pants” when he needed it. A research scientist for a pharmaceutical firm, whom I encountered during a layover at the airport in Trenton, New Jersey, told me that my father was the person who sparked her interest in science. A renowned artist confided that he discovered his talent for composition while learning photography from my dad.***

***Daddy survived a brush with death and faced seemingly insurmountable odds as he grew into adulthood, but the setbacks he encountered propelled him to achieve and share his gifts with others so that they, too, could succeed. Daddy had courage, and he drew upon his courage to overcome adversity. I believe we all possess courage, but we often don’t recognize it in its simplest everyday forms. Courage doesn’t just exist on the battlefield; it is stored in an internal reservoir that we can tap at any time. Whether we perform our jobs ethically, stand up against prejudice, risk our lives in dangerous situations, forgive someone who has injured us, or remain loyal to our spouse in times of adversity, it amounts to the same thing—courage. Courage is the stuff we all possess but must choose to be made of. Like the wounded eagle, each of us will face adversity and pain, but can we muster the courage to “do what must be done”?***