



**All the Best Podcast**  
**Episode 36: “An Obligation to Serve”**  
*Featuring Star College Football Coach, Mack Brown*

Mack: March 9th, 1998. This is our great, free country and everyone should feel some obligation to serve in some way at some time. That doesn't mean only military service. It means more broadly service to others. Everyone should feel some obligation to give something back. - George H.W. Bush.

George: In the first place, I believe that character is a part of being President.

Barbara: And life really must have joy.

Sam: This is "All the Best." The official podcast of the George and Barbara Bush Foundation. I'm your host, Sam LeBlond, one of their many grandchildren. Here, we celebrate the legacy of these two incredible Americans through friends, family, and the foundation. This is "All the Best."

George: I remember something my dad taught me. He said, write your mother, serve your country, and he said, tell the truth. And I've tried to do that in public life. All through it.

Barbara: You are a human being first and those human connections with children, with friends are the most important investments you will ever make.

George: We stand tonight before a new world of hope and possibilities for our children. A world we could not have contemplated a few years ago.

Sam: On behalf of our family and the George and Barbara Bush Foundation. This is "All the Best." Coach Mack Brown is a legendary collegiate football coach. He

is currently on his second stint as head coach of the UNC Tarheels after 15 seasons at the University of Texas. During his time at UNC Coach Brown has led the school to three 10-win seasons, seven Bowl games, and is one of a handful of coaches in college football history to lead two separate programs to top five national finishes. In 2018, he was inducted into the National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame, and with 251 career victories, ranked 9th on the FBS all-time list. Off the field, Coach Brown has also had success in the broadcasting booth with ESPN. In the locker room, Coach Brown's primary emphasis to his players is to maintain a high level of achievement in the classroom and in the community. He himself has raised millions of dollars for a variety of great causes. Coach Brown, it's an honor to have you on "All the Best."

Mack: Thank you, Sam. I love your family and I was so lucky in my life to be around your grandmother and granddad and see the great leaders of our country they were. And of course he wouldn't want me to call him George W. but President George W. was the governor of Texas when I got to the university of Texas. So we, to this day, have a tremendous friendship.

Sam: Coach, I would imagine this off season has been radically different than any other in your distinguished career, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic. How do you recruit and otherwise prepare for a season when you aren't sure it's going to start on time or possibly not, at all?

Mack: Sam, the only thing I've ever been through, like this was 9/11. There were uncertainties at that time and President Bush handled it so well. In Austin with the daughters in the university, we didn't know what was going to happen. And we had to find their players and find their parents. And we were open that weekend, but that one went away rather quickly. It still has changes in our lives today, but it wasn't the unknown that this one is. So all of a sudden, we're sitting there at spring break, watching basketball games, everything's canceled. We're supposed to start spring practice the next Tuesday. And I walk into our office now, and there's still notebooks that are open, that people left the building so quickly and never came back after spring break. So we went in a 24-hour period from having a staff meeting to saying, well, let's have it upstairs and get everybody six feet apart, to going to Zoom.

And that was in a 24-hour period. So since that time, our players had to come back and get their stuff out of the dorms because they were trying to prepare the dorms for hospital rooms if need be. We haven't seen our players since. They've taken their classes online. Some of them didn't even have internet service so we had to be

creative and find places for them to study. They had to get their tutoring online. We have to actually send them videos, weight workouts, and they have to do it on their own. It's voluntary. We send them the supplements that are legal from our nutritional team and at the same time, we're having about eight hours of video study with them each week with our coaches. So we're trying to stay in constant contact with them. The pandemic has taken away a lot of things we love and one of those things is interactions. There's a certain amount of depression that comes with this to some, there's some anxiety attacks. So we've really got to worry about their mental health as well, but by and large, over the last six weeks or so, I think our staff has done a creative job of staying in touch with the guys, making sure that they're healthy with the mental health and physical health, hopefully preparing themselves to come back and at the same time trying to pick them up because many of their families are laid off. The scholarship money is the only way they can eat right now. But I've been proud of the staff and I've really been proud of the guys and the way they've all responded.

Sam: I mean, it seems like you have a new challenge in your job here is now you have to become a technology expert with connecting with players because I know that's a big part of your job is connecting and that's so hard. I mean, I know right now we're doing that over Zoom, but I think we talked about before you got on the call, you've become a Zoom expert, like many Americans these days.

Mack: It was really interesting Sam, that 24-hour period when they were canceling school or at least moving spring break to a two-week period instead of a one week period. Our daughter is a professor at UVA and she calls and says, "Dad, I'm going to be teaching class on Zoom because they've canceled all of our classes." And I said, "What's Zoom?" And then the next day I'm having a staff meeting on Zoom. And we actually had the staff meeting on Zoom because we knew that was our new means of communication. But I think, Sam, in a positive way, we're going to learn a lot of things about this. We hear the negatives every day. There's so many people that are losing jobs and dying and sick. And it's awful. What we are going to learn is that we can communicate better across the country by Zoom and different means of virtual tours and things that will probably help us in recruiting and help save some time with our staff so they can stay at home and still meet and our players. We'll come out of this stronger on the other side, like we did 9/11 and the awful loss of lives is something that poor families that are losing people obviously never get back, but Americans are strong and we'll learn from this and come out better.

Sam: Yeah. I know I've connected with my Bush family more than I have ever. We have a biweekly Zoom call, you know, seeing George W. try to get the iPad going.

I mean, we've connected more than we ever have before. So it's actually kind of a blessing in disguise. Instead of meeting kind of once during the summer, now we're checking in weekly with everybody, which is always fun.

Mack: The President's like me. He always had somebody to fix that thing for him.

Sam: That's right.

Mack: Would you come here and fix this for me and now he's doing it himself. So that's kinda what I told Sally, when I got home, I said, "Sweetie, can you do this?" She said, "No, I'm not your assistant. You need to learn to do this yourself." So I'm learning all kinds of new things around the house.

Sam: Well, I think we're all becoming experts very quickly because we have to. Coach can you tell us about that magical year in 2005, when you led the Texas Longhorns to the national championship?

Mack: When George W. called the next morning at six, I'll never forget the things he said that... it'll be in my mind forever. He said, "You never know if you're the best president, you never know if you're the best father, you never know if you're the best husband, you have the best football team in America." And I said, "Mr. President, it's pretty obvious you go to bed really early and this game lasted really late. So are you going to tell me you stayed up and watched the whole game?" And he said, "Coach, I hung in there till there were 6 minutes and 42 seconds left. You were down by 12." And he said, "I went to bed." But he said, "Let me tell you something. I couldn't sleep. And I got back up and I came back and watched the last three minutes and 50 seconds.

And I watched the Texas Longhorns win the national championship." So that was really, really cool and then we had a wonderful time taking our team to the White House. That's your goal. That's your dream as a head football coach that you do that. And the game itself was so unique because we had beaten Michigan the year before, USC won 30 something straight games, we'd won 20 something straight games. We were number two. And it was that way all year. Even when people that go back to that year remember Notre Dame was about to beat USC in South Bend and they call it the Bush Push when Reggie Bush push-lined in and won the game and we had just beaten somebody. And we were in the locker room and our guys, Sam, were watching the game at the end, I couldn't get their attention and they were wanting USC to win.

And when USC scored, they screamed and I said, what are you guys doing? And they said, "Coach, we want USC. That's our deal, man. We don't want them to lose. Everybody says, that's the best team in the country. We want to beat the best team in the country." So it was that kind of build up really from the Ohio State game early in the year and then we beat Oklahoma and it was all USC. And we started comparing our stats to USC stats, right after the Oklahoma game for the rest of the year. It was the craziest thing I'd ever seen or ever done. And then we get to the game and nobody thinks we've got a chance to win. And, we did, we were good, and we knew we were good. And I told the guys let's act like the story of Troy. Let's get in the wooden horse, keep our mouth shut. Let's slip into Pasadena and we'll win the game. Then we'll do our talking, but those guys deserve it so let's brag on them. And then it was just an Epic game. One of the best games in the history of college football.

Sam: For all of the coaching accolades and honors you have earned, which one stands out the most for you and why?

Mack: Yeah, Sam, it would be the Hall of Fame. My granddad was the winningest high school coach in middle Tennessee history, when we were growing up and the stadium was named after him, he always talked about the Hall of Fame and he said, "Your peers put you in there." And what it does after you get in it, it allows you to go back and say, thank you to all the players, all the staff members and all the coaches that you ever worked with. And I've told them your name's in there with me. And it kind of validates everything that everybody's done, that we worked with together. It's been cool to go into the hall of fame and then come back to coach because it's fun but there is a certain validation when you win the national championship. I asked coach Royal, who won three national championships at Texas.

I said, "Coach, what does this mean?" He said, "Oh, coach, it's a box you check off. He said, everybody liked to do it. Not many people get to, he said, half the ones that play in it, lose it. And he said, and what you did now, you screwed up because you're going to want to win another one. And the state of Texas is going to want you to win another one. So you probably screwed it up for the rest of your life. And he said, the other thing, you gotta be careful I've after you win the national championship. When you say things, people listen. So you're going to have to be more careful what you say. And that's kinda the same way, Sam, with the Hall of Fame. But that would be the moment I think in my life that really validated all the hard work that so many of us have put into coaching college football for many years.

Sam: Coach, after a fairly historic 16 season run at the university of Texas, you went into the ESPN broadcasting booth before returning to the University of North Carolina for your second coaching tenure there. What's the difference between coaching and broadcasting and given the difficult realities you face as a coach on the field, did that unique perspective ever influence how critical you were of the coaches you covered as a broadcaster because I'm sure that can be an interesting situation?

Mack: Sam, it was very interesting. I asked ESPN once, why don't you have many college football coaches that are announcers? And they said, college basketball coaches will be critical. They will rip each other, man. College football coaches are too loyal. They just won't do it. And thinking back, I've had the really cool perspective too, of being a head coach 31 years and then going into the booth for five and then going back to coach. And what I can say is in coaching, what you're doing is you're taking crisis and you're turning them into positives. That's what you do. When president Bush was the governor. I said, why do you want to be the president? And he said, "Number one, our family is in the service business. We love to serve." He said, "Number two, I love fixing things. I love fixing problems." And that's what head coaches do because you've got 130 players.

You got high school coaches, you got media, you got letterman, you got faculty, you got grassroots people. There are so many different dynamics. So much diversity involved in a head football coach's life. You're always fixing something. Somebody always mad about something or you're trying to settle something.

In the booth, I found myself not worrying about what ESPN thought and not worrying about what the coaches thought as much as trying to be fair to the fans. My job was to take the fan behind the scene, and I was the only one that could do that, from my head coaching perspective, because that's what I did. So somebody would say, "What a bad call." I said, "Well, it wasn't a bad call, it was bad execution. And they worked on it all week so I don't think they're stupid. Should he have done that? Well, he did it, so it don't matter. You can't take a should he have. It's over." And I would always say, Sam, if you ask him, I think he'd do it differently, and here's what he'd do differently, instead of saying he was stupid. A lot of them just say, "He is stupid. What a stupid call. He should be fired."

I remember halftime of the Virginia Tech, West Virginia game. And Texas A&M had a huge lead over UCLA. UCLA came back and beat them right in the end. Kevin Negandhi, who I love, was the host, and he turned to me and said, "Kevin,

someone should be fired." I said, "It's the first game. He shouldn't be fired. He should have won the game. He shouldn't have let him come back. He's mad at himself but you don't fire a coach after the first game. What if he wins the next 11?" So that was more the perspective I had.

Michigan loses to Notre Dame. First game, they lose badly. All the guys on the set say, "Jim Harbaugh should be fired." I said, "Who you gonna hire better than Jim Harbaugh in Michigan? You can't hire anybody better than Jim Harbaugh. So no, he shouldn't be fired. They ought to play better. And they are gonna play better. But don't be firing coaches in the first week of the season." So I probably brought a different perspective just because I've sat in that chair.

Sam: Did you enjoy your time with ESPN? You think you could ever get back into broadcasting or is five years plenty?

Mack: No, I had a blast. I got into our team...I actually had a Zoom call, I'm on a text chain with Booger McFarland and Joey Galloway and Jonathan Vilmont [SP], all the guys I worked with. And I looked up, once I saw my phone at halftime and we were getting beat by somebody, and they said, "Your team stinks." I thought, "Well, that's great. Thanks, guys." So I told them, "I'm turning the phone off now, so I won't see their text chains while I'm out on the field." But I had a blast because I love college football. I'm passionate about it. And I got to call games for three years on Friday nights, so I got to see the players. I got to talk to their coaches and their coordinators. And it really helped me, coming back into coaching. And then every Saturday, I'd sit there and watch 24 games. From noon until midnight, we watched every college football game that was on and we'd have six or eight going at one time, Sam, and then we'd have to email our producers and tell them what we'd like to talk about at halftime, and it was really fun. I would have had a lot of trouble leaving Texas, and staying retired without anything to do, so I was really fortunate that ESPN called and immediately said, "Will you do this?"

Sam: Coach, in November of 2015, you called the University of Houston Navy Game for ESPN and had a special visit with my grandfather before the game. Can you talk about your relationship with my grandparents?

Mack: Yeah, I knew your granddad was pulling for Navy. I knew he would probably be at the game so I called and said, "Can we make the press?" Then I went to hug his neck. And I also wanted our team to meet him because they said, "We can't. They won't let us meet the president." I said, "We might be okay. Just

hang in there." They couldn't even call the game. They were so excited. And they got pictures with your granddad.

And your granddad was such a special man because for me, when he got his library at Texas A&M, he became a Texas A&M fan, which I told him was the only thing I didn't like about him, and he thought that was fair. And before every Texas A&M game, Sam, he would look me up. So he'd come to the dressing room, here's your granddad knocking on the door, president walking into your team while they're getting dressed. He'd say, "Hey, Coach, how are you? You know I'm pulling against you today. But I just need to hug your neck and see you're..." They'd have the parade with the Aggie Band walking in front of him, and the cadets keep walking out on the field, right through the parade, come down and say hello.

And the first year that we played A&M in Austin, Ricky Williams is about to break the record and your granddad sent word for Sally, who was up in the suite near him, to come and speak to your grandmother and your granddad. Sally's walking down. She sees George Strait and she's not a country music fan, so she's not real sure who he is and everybody. She tells me, "I saw George Strait." I said, "You saw George Strait, oh my gosh. That is so cool." And then she saw Walter Cronkite. She says, "That's the coolest thing I've ever seen in my life, Walter Cronkite." I was like, "Uh, it's okay. I'd rather see George."

And then she walks into the suite, and your granddad's such a gentleman and so gracious and talks to Sally and says, "Here, I want you to speak to Barbara. So Sally goes over to your grandmother and your grandmother holds her hand and says, "Sally, so good to meet you." She said, "I just can't imagine the pressure on the head football coach's wife at the University of Texas." Sally said, "When the President of the United States' wife tells you she feels like you're under pressure, you know you got a tough job."

Sam: Oh, that's great. Well, Coach, taking our cues from both of my grandparents, the main theme for our podcast is service. And you and your wife Sally are certainly bright points of light in your own regard. I know while in Austin, for example, you helped start and raise millions of dollars for the Rise School. And since 2016, your Mack, Jack, & McConaughy events with singer Jack Ingram and actor Matthew McConaughy has raised over \$13 million for a variety of great causes. Why is helping others clearly so important to you and Sally?

Mack: I think, Sam, as you get older, and you're so blessed, we made money, we've had a wonderful life, we like being around your grandfather, his friend, Mr. Joe

Jamail, the field at Texas is named after, he was one of our dearest friends, the Red McCombs and Tex Moncreifs and you can go on and on with the unbelievable characters that we'd been able to meet in our life, and we were in a position at Texas where you're a very, very visible person in that state. And we felt like early, when we got there, people would call and say, "Can we use your name? Can we use the football program to raise some money for this disease or these kids?" And what we felt is the ability to help people not only change their lives, but save lives, just through your name because of something you were associated with.

Coach Stallings, Gene Stallings who was the coach at Texas A&M, the coach at Alabama, we coached against him when we were at North Carolina and he was in Alabama, and his son Johnny had Down syndrome. And he started the Rise School of Tuscaloosa. And then there was a Rise School in Dallas, and a Rise School in Houston. There wasn't one in Austin. So Coach said, "You need to start a Rise School of Austin." And you didn't know Coach Stallings, he doesn't ask. He tells you. And when he tells you, you do what he says.

So we started immediate working on the Rise School of Austin. And then there was a family that came in, it had a young man that was sick. They said he's got Duchenne. We said, "What is that?" It's a muscular disease for usually young boys. It can be men and women, but it really damages their muscles to a point that they lose their lives in their 20s. It's just a devastating disease. And they said, "Will you help us?" and we said, "Yes." And then there were kids that were dying of heart failure and they didn't have enough money so Heart Gift came on and said, "Can you help us with heart transplants?"

And we were doing so much, Sam. We looked up one year before MJ&M, and we'd only been home five days in the spring. And I'm sure it was affecting our jobs because we were working so hard to help others and give back that Sally said, "You know, we just ought to do one big event for all these charities instead of spreading it out so much." And Jack Ingram text one night, about 1:00, and Jack's a friend. He's a superstar in the country music business in Texas, and his dad used to go to the Ben-Willie-Darrell. And Coach Royal had this function that he would get with country music singers and they would give money to Austin, in East Austin. And he said, "Let's do this." So then Sally and I thought, "We're really good friends with Matthew McConaughey, let's use Matthew's star power in Austin. I'm sure he'd probably like to do the same."

So the three of us got together. We had no clue what we're doing. The first year was nearly a disaster. People just pulled us out because people around Austin, in

the state of Texas, are so great about giving. And now, it's an event that draws people from all over the country. That's really cool. This year was different. We had to do it like this. We had to do it with Zoom, and we had a virtual concert with Luke Combs. But so many of the entertainers that had come year after year, they gave us a song. It was a real blessing. So we're still going to be able to give all the charities enough money to satisfy their budgets.

Sam: Coach, there's an old adage which I'm sure you have heard many times, "To whom much is given, much is required." You have had the chance to coach many young men, who, because of their sports achievements, inherited a large platform that can be used to do a lot of great things outside of sports. Do you encourage players you have mentored to use that platform to serve?

Mack: We do, Sam. We invited so many of them to MJ&M, just so they could see what it meant. And then weirdly enough, and really cool, we never asked any of them for any money and a lot of them gave money. We didn't even know it. They didn't tell us. One of the blessings you have, after 32 years of being a head coach, you've got doctors and lawyers and faculty members, and there's so many different people that have changed society that played for you, and it's so cool.

I had a knee replacement last June, and the guy that replaced my knee as a safety on our football team when I was here the first time. His name's Mike Bolognese [SP]. He was one of the top surgeons in the country. Kareem Myer's [SP] another guy who played for us that's a tremendous surgeon there in Dallas that did Jamaal Charles' knee.

I'm laying there on the bed, I'm looking up at Dr. Bolognese and I said, "Michael, I ever make you mad?" And he's getting to put the gas on me, he said, "Coach, you made all of us mad." And I said, "Are we good?" He said, "You're good, go to sleep." And he did a tremendous job with my knee, but that's a blessing that we get to continue to visit with these guys, see their wives, and their kids. And now, we're coaching some of their kids. I've got three guys on this team that I coached their dads. It's something that most people don't get to do in their lives, so I'm really blessed.

Sam: You returned to coaching, and you returned to Chapel Hill, it has to be filled with so much pressure to perform and to get results. Plenty of our listeners, me included, would like to get your proven tips for handling those kind of pressures. How would you coach us all on that?

Mack: I think, number one, Sam, is I asked Mr. Chamel, the tort lawyer that we lost a few years ago in Houston, who was a mentor of mine but one of my best friends, I talked to him every night and he was a great friend of your grandfather's as I said, and I said, "Mr. Chamel, you get death threats, and you got pressure and you get criticism, how do you handle all this?" And he said, "Coach, I take five or six people that I really respect and I call them and I bounce things off of them and I ask them what they think of the things that I'm doing." And he said, "I don't pay any attention to anybody else." He said, "Why would you worry about criticism on the internet from people you don't really know? They don't know you. Why would you worry about what a reporter says, good or bad, if they don't even know you? They're not around you." So he said, "Take people that you trust, ask them direct questions, and then they will give you direct questions, and it will not be criticism, it will be evaluation."

And that's what I do, Sam, more than anything else. And it's easier to do as you get older and you've had a little success because I really don't care what people think, because I'm gonna always do what I know is the right thing to do. I'm not ever going to second-guess myself because at the time I made a decision, I looked at all the different scenarios that could happen, I thought about it, I studied it, I asked people's opinion, and then I made the decision that was best at the time. So I don't go back and play that what-if game. Maybe we didn't do it right. Maybe we didn't put it in the play right after we decided what to do, but when we decided, that was the best thing to do. So don't beat yourself up by going back.

Sally gets on me some, because I like to have everybody's opinion in the room, even our staff. If we've got 20-something people in the room, I'll ask every one of them, "What do you think?" And she says, "You waste a lot time," and I said, "I want to know what they think, because if they're not thinking what I'm thinking, maybe they're right, maybe they have a better idea. But if they don't, I've still got to make them believe in what we're doing." So it's really important for me to have an all-inclusive group, players and coaches and staff, we all talk it out, and then we come at a good place, and then we move on." And I don't worry about it anymore.

This year, we had Clemson down to a one-point game with a minute 16 left, I think, and people said, "You went for two and you didn't make it. That was stupid." I said, "No, no, no, at the time I made the decision, we had five players hurt on defense, Clemson has a better team than we do, we didn't need to go overtime with them because we were beaten down, we were worn out. Our best chance to win the game was all in one play, and then try to stop them." And they said, "Well, would you have run a different play?" I said, "No, we would have executed the one we

ran better." We knew it was a good call. I'm not gonna let people second-guess me that really put no thought into it and had no information available.

And I learned too, Sam, that over my last five years, it's the media's job to question. It's the job to stir things up. It's the job to get people to start asking questions. So they're not mad at me. They're not after me. They're just trying to get people to listen, and then that's fair.

Sam: Now, to finish up, Coach, and I want to thank you so much for being on the show with us today, what does the future hold for college football?

Mack: Sam, we've got some real issues right now that we're looking at. Will we have another virus in two years or three years that we'll go through this again, or are we going to get a handle on this? Can we go back and hug somebody's neck? Can we high-five somebody? Is that gonna change in our lives moving forward? Well, I hope that we can have interaction like we've had in the past. I know I'm washing my hands about 25 times a day. I guess, I'll continue to do that, but that is something. Even coming back this summer and this fall, how will that change?

Secondly, I think that you will see super conferences. Because of money, I think we're headed that way again, and then there'll be another division, probably of college football down the road.

Thirdly, I'd like to see a commissioner of college football, that works with the NCAA and all the commissioners because we've got too many conferences that are doing their own thing, and too many compliance departments that have different interpretations. We need to get a boss. We need to get somebody to help guide us.

And that leads to the last part of this, Sam. Right now, we've got a thing out there called name, image, and likeness. And the NCAA said, "We're gonna let the players make money off their name." But they've put no guidelines in there. So I had five prospects' dads called me last week say, "What does that mean? How much money is my son gonna get? How's he gonna get the money?" And there are no guidelines. They've pushed it back until January. I hope that they'll be paid through the scholarship, like they are now. I hope that we don't lose amateur sports.

To me, what should happen right now is let's let the guys have more choices so if they want to make money off their name, go to the NFL, let you go out of high school if you want to. Go after your freshman year, go after your sophomore year, you don't have to wait till your junior year. But let's don't get three players on your

team that are making money and the rest of your team is not. That's not what college sports is about. Let's do a better job of branding all of the team members so that your backup right guard, when he gets out of college, will have a better chance to brand himself because we helped him figure out what he does best and that will give him a leg up when he gets out.

And then the last one that's really out there right now, Sam, is one-year transfer. They're looking at that. Can you stay a year and transfer and be automatically eligible, because now, you can move so quickly, and there aren't enough guidelines in place there? Could your starting quarterback leave in August and go to a school that you play against in the opening game and start against you? So some guidelines have to be put there. But we've got some really hard decisions to make in college football here in the next six months that could change college football forever moving forward.

Sam: Coach, thank you so much for joining us in "All the Best." I hope to be watching you and the Heels at Kenan Memorial Stadium this fall. Good luck to you and your team and enjoy all your Zoom calls. I'm sure you're not for the day.

Mack: Well, thank you, Sam. And thanks so much for having me on. I love your family, and be sure to tell them all, especially President Bush, I said hello.

Sam: I'm Sam LeBlond reminding you to listen, share, and subscribe to "All the Best" on Apple podcasts, Spotify and everywhere great podcasts are found. Thank you for joining me as we celebrate All the Best.

Barbara: Both George and I believe that while the White House is important, the country's future is in your house. Every house, all over America.

George: Preparedness, strength, decency, and honor. Courage, sacrifice, the willingness to fight, even die for one's country. America, the land of the free and the brave. And God bless the United States of America. The greatest country on the face of the Earth.