

Be willing and prepared to step up

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There will come a time in life when you may be asked to step up for your organization, your family, yourself, or for an important cause. Perhaps this may happen during the course of life’s daily routines or maybe after an unexpected crisis. Or maybe your organization experiences a problem that threatens the bottom line and/or puts people’s jobs in jeopardy. Whichever occurrence it is, someone will be called upon to “save the day.” Would you be willing and ready to respond if you’re the one called?

Even in sports, there are occasions when an unsuspecting person comes out of nowhere to win the game. This past weekend, during an NHL hockey game between the Toronto Maple Leafs and Carolina Hurricanes, a 42-year-old Zamboni driver, David Ayres, was called upon during the 2nd period of the game to play goalie for the Hurricanes after both of the team’s goalies went down with injuries. With no time to warm up, Ayres borrowed another goalie’s equipment and quickly skated out to play goalie. He didn’t become an all star that day but he performed

admirably enough to hold off the Maple Leafs and win the game 6-3. That night David Ayres went from being a spectator in the stands to playing goalie on the ice in a matter of minutes. Not only was that feat extraordinary, but he became the oldest player in NHL history to win a game as a goaltender. I think it’s fair to say that David Ayres proved he was willing and ready to step up when called upon.

Back in my military days, there was an occasion when I had to teach my troops about the consequences of interacting with pestering media reporters who wiggle their way onto battlefields to get “the story.” Quite often troops would say something seemingly innocent to a reporter who then spun those comments into something different to accommodate their narratives, resulting in inaccurate information being reported. So to truly teach the troops about these instances, I needed to conduct training scenarios using a reliable and convincing person as a mock media journalist. When I couldn’t find the right fit for the role, an unsuspecting Security Forces Airman, Wes Stover, came to me and

suggested he could do it. I hesitated at first but took a chance because I was desperate. Immediately, I observed that Wes did his homework to acquire the knowledge and techniques associated with being a CNN correspondent. His performance on the front lines resulted in effective interviews that provided me with valuable data to evaluate my troops’ performance in regards to media interaction. Wes Stover certainly proved he was willing and prepared to step up.

So what about you? Are you willing and prepared to help family members when they need help and can’t help themselves? Or how about when your boss is immersed in an organizational crisis? Are you willing and prepared to step up and help or do you run for the hills? Or do you simply ignore the situation and keep to yourself?

When necessary, be willing and prepared to step up. Be someone who can prevent the disaster or achieve the great endeavor. Be the one who can make a positive difference for people, organizations, and the world. When the moment for leadership reveals itself, step up and seize the opportunity.

~ The End ~