

## **My Hoosier Bicentennial Heroes**

In 3 years Indiana Hoosier's Bicentennial Statehood celebration will be here! If everybody shared a hero, from a town or city, imagine how this 197<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Statehood will prepare us for the Bicentennial Birthday in 2016! Here are heroes from my hometown.

The Potawatomi Indians of Northwest Indiana are heroes. They taught settlers about wildlife, trapping, fishing, and the beauty of our State. Potawatomi Park in the City of Rensselaer honors these heroes. Daily, my school bus travels the countryside, past small cemeteries of heroes –heroes of parents, children, and infants, when young Indiana endured sicknesses with courage and no modern medicine.

Heroes are everywhere! Librarians are heroes; they know reading is important. They preserve the history of our city and county. General Robert Huston Milroy is a Rensselaer Civil War hero. The Rensselaer Library has his real uniform, swords, and other artifacts he carried in the war. The name of my school, Van Rensselaer, is named after a hero, who founded Rensselaer, James van Rensselaer.

On Sunday, my Pastor and church family are heroes. We pray for community members and for government officials to lead us wisely. In my family I have unsung heroes, teaching me about life and love. Grandpa and Dad are Hoosier heroes. They're farmers, getting up early, and staying out late, planting, or harvesting the crop. They love and respect the land. I'm proud they're agricultural heroes. My great grandma grew up during the depression years. Three generations ago she was a farm girl, living in the house where I live today. She was a hero. When you said goodbye, you had to say, "I love you." She would've been excited to celebrate heroes of Indiana's 200<sup>th</sup> Bicentennial. For Great Grandma and the Hoosiers in this great State, I say, I LOVE YOU INDIANA!

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