



This Is Who We Are

By “Musafir”



When I came to this country in 1974, I got my first job as an Industrial Engineer at General Tires & Rubber Company (GT). I got that

job without knowing anyone in the organization. Next day I was assigned to perform a work study on a young man whose job was to load and unload resin and fiberglass in the mold of a 150 ton press. He was required to repeat the cycle for eight hours in order to earn his per diem wage. Later I learned that the young man that I am talking about was the son of the chairman of GT. Nothing surprising, he was simply pursuing his American dream.

Edwin J Fuelner wrote in his book, *American Spirit*, “Consider the phrase, “the American dream.” The words themselves reveal something extraordinary. In all the history of man, there has been only one country with the word “dream” attached to it. There is no French Dream or Russian Dream or Chinese Dream. There is only the American dream, to which

people worldwide aspire and have aspired since our founding. From 194 countries, people have come to America to pursue this dream.”

Coming to Harvey, Pictures of destroyed homes and flooded neighborhoods are



heartbreaking, but the inspiring images of neighbors helping neighbors and average citizens performing heroic acts have shown Texas, and America, at its best. The resilience of common men and women, their hope and effort to rebuild their homes and neighborhoods with the help of neighbors, countrymen, and business corporations are incredible.

The eyes of the country have been on Texas as it deals with the devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey. Other than the devastation done by the 500 year storm, it’s the efforts of citizen volunteers that are becoming a major focus of the global community.

The citizens of Texas and the rest of the country realize that when it comes to most disasters, government alone can't save the day, citizens need to be ready to save neighbors in harm's way. And that is exactly what we've seen in Texas.

There is no telling how many lives have been saved because countless individuals took it upon themselves to wade through streets searching for family, friends, and strangers trapped by rising flood waters, using their personal boats, kayaks, and jet skis to reach people rescue workers could not, and opening up their homes to those who had nowhere to go.

It's what most of the folks across the street from you would do, and it's what most of the people in the next town or city of your state would do.

What we've witnessed in Texas is the best of America. People from different cultural and economic and racial backgrounds coming together to demonstrate that all lives matter and showing through actions, not protests, what it looks like to love thy neighbor.

Those who live under the influence of media, see America as a divided and racist country. Probably, they have confined themselves inside glass towers too busy finding faults in others instead of doing something about that. Some see the storm as a revenge of God against since they voted for Trump. I don't think so.

Here are some newspaper excerpts to prove my point:

- "For those outside its path, the most enduring memories of Hurricane Harvey could be the images of America as most Americans like to think of it: A black deputy sheriff wading through floodwaters with a white child in each arm; a white SWAT officer, also wading through floodwaters, carrying a Vietnamese American cradling her sleeping baby; three Asian and Hispanic constables, knee-deep in water, carrying an elderly woman in a wheelchair."
- "One Harvey photo after another shows rescue teams made up of black, white, Hispanic and Asian responders, helping people



of all races. Pets and livestock, too. The rescuers are doing what is urgent in the moment and no doubt think nothing of it.

I can fill hundreds of pages giving examples of American spirit, but we don't have enough pages in this publication to do so. Seeing them is a much needed reminder: This is who we are.

