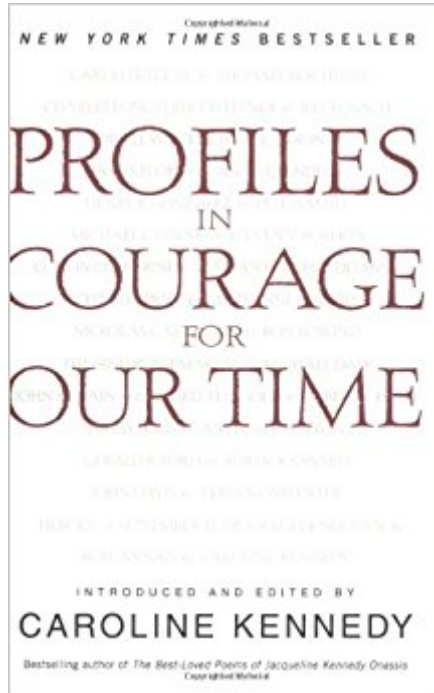


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Profiles In Courage For Our Time



Synopsis

Nearly half a century after then-Senator John F. Kennedy was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Profiles in Courage, the Kennedy family continues to keep alive the tradition of honoring selfless public service with its Profiles in Courage Award. Now in paperback, Profiles in Courage for Our Time pays tribute to 13 such heroes in the same spirit as the original collection. Some of our greatest writers have brought their formidable talents to this celebration of modern political bravery including Michael Beschloss, Anna Quindlen, Bob Woodward, and Marian Wright Edelman. Also included is Caroline Kennedy's profile of the latest award recipient, Kofi Annan. These are just a few of the luminaries who eloquently and passionately record the experiences of the award winners. This celebration of modern political bravery demonstrates that heroism among today's elected officials is as possible and inspiring as ever. "The Profiles in Courage Award seeks to honor those whose lives of service prove that politics can be a noble profession. We hope that Americans realize that there are men and women serving at all levels of our government who are legends of our time."

--Caroline Kennedy

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Customer Reviews

In 1957, then-senator John F. Kennedy won a Pulitzer Prize for Profiles in Courage. In 1990, the Kennedy family resurrected the concept and established the Profiles in Courage Award for selfless public service. Now, in this expertly packaged anthology, Caroline Kennedy and over a dozen prominent writers bring the sacrifices of those award winners to life. Some essays address famous

leaders like the Good Friday peacemakers in Ireland and campaign-finance-reform stalwarts John McCain and Russell Feingold. Others hail lesser-known local officials, like school superintendent Corkin Cherubini, who braved a firestorm to end race-based tracking in Georgia. All the winners acted with a rare breed of selfless courage but sometimes this courage came at a terrible cost. U.S. Representative Carl Elliot Sr. was chased out of office in 1964 because he fought segregation in Alabama; by the time he won the first Profile in Courage Award, he was living alone in a ramshackle house, confined to a wheelchair by diabetes and hounded by creditors. Kennedy has assembled an impressive roster of writers to compose these mostly inspirational stories: Michael Beschloss, Anna Quindlen, Albert R. Hunt. The most audacious essay in the collection belongs to Bob Woodward, who reverses 25 years of conventional wisdom in arguing that former president Gerald Ford should be applauded for his pardon of Richard Nixon after Watergate. Of course, not all of the essays have the same level of distinction, but all share the same Kennedy spirit. Unabashedly liberal and pro-government, this collection is a stirring look at people who rarely thought about what they could do for themselves, but always about what they could do for their country. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Inspired by her father's late-1950s best-seller, Caroline Kennedy compiles 14 essays lauding political courage. Contributors include Michael Beschloss, E. J. Dionne, Bob Woodward, Anna Quindlen, and Pete Hamill, among others. Each of the 14 essay subjects was a recipient of the Profiles in Courage Award, created by the Kennedy family a decade ago. The virtue of courage ordinarily involves some risk to one's life. With exceptions, such as civil rights leader John Lewis, the virtue as lauded in this volume involves inveighing against some powerful interest. Another attribute sought is the championship of liberal causes: the editor chose Republicans for about one-fourth of the profiles, and of that group, two for their liberal positions on issues (John McCain's crusade against political financing; Lowell Weicker's imposition of an income tax on Connecticut residents). Other essay subjects include Gerald Ford's controversial decision to pardon Richard Nixon and James Fioro's passing of the strictest gun-control law in the nation. The high-profile names of the editor and writers will attract wide interest. Gilbert TaylorCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have the original written by Caroline's father John, desperately wanted this for my collection. Still need to read it,

The book arrived beautifully packaged. It was in great condition and was an enjoyable read!

it was as inspirational as her father's book - has proven herself to be a very inspirational writer very informative

This book is a compilation of short biographies of the winners of the Profile in Courage Award. It is a group effort, being the work of numerous historians and writers. I found these stories inspiring because many of them illuminate political leaders who took actions they knew would be detrimental to their careers. Yes, most of the award winners have been on the liberal side, but personally I find that a healthy antidote to the sort of "leadership" the mainstream media prefers to applaud these days. And don't forget good old Gerald Ford, whose biography (by Bob Woodward, no less) eloquently makes his case for his pardoning of Richard Nixon. Many readers will disagree with some of the choices for the awards and with some of the conclusions of the authors of these biographies. Nevertheless Profiles in Courage For Our Time is an inspiring effort meant to remind us of the highest qualities we should expect from our leadership.

Taking a page from her father's Pulitzer prize winning book Profiles in Courage, Caroline Kennedy wrote Profiles in Courage for Our Time. A collection of essays by distinct individuals on winners of the Profile in Courage Award given by the Kennedy Library Foundation and are a cross section of America's heroes. One award was granted to the Heroes of September 11. From Gerald Ford unpopular decision to pardon Richard Nixon to the resilient John Lewis who was literally beat up on the Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. What I find most useful in this book is it gives you a good sense and background of individuals of which you may have heard their name but were not familiar with what exactly they did.

The "profiles" in this update to JFK's classic, are varied in both their subjects and their presentation. These accounts are not uniform in quality. Most stirring are those with a personal flavor such as Bob Woodward's profile of Gerald Ford, wherein we see a hidden profile of Woodward as well. However, others seem either too detached or tediously narrative, such as Michael Daly's "The Irish Peacemakers" which outlines the alphabet soup of the political/religious strife in Ireland, but does little to connect the overall themes of courage to anything outside the situation. It is a good read, but not all the selections hold interest. I'd recommend particular excerpts for good classroom reading. I

also commend the acknowledgement of politicians, leaders, and activists on both local and global levels.

Everyone profiled was either a close friend of Kennedy's or advanced the political agenda of the Kennedy foundation. This book is not about 'politicians who courageously risked their careers over ideals' but about politicians whose ideological work is in line with Kennedy Foundation agenda. They also tossed in a mention of the 9/11 firefighters, who while heroic, don't match the book's premise. One profiled person deserved to be in the book -- Carl Elliot Sr, a man who died penniless because he supported civil rights in the deep south. Yes, he was a close personal friend of JFK, but unlike other men in this book, his courage ruined his political career and he was historically vindicated. This guy could be in the first Profiles. The most undeserving man is Weicker, who lied about tax legislation to get elected in Connecticut, then cut corporate taxes and implemented a budget balancing flat tax. This gave to the rich and took from the poor. While the Kennedys may pay less taxes, this was not a courageous man. Overall, a flawed imitation of the first Profiles of Courage, not worth your time unless you also share the ideals of the Kennedy Foundation, which appears to be the main criteria for selection. A trade on JFK's reputation without substance.

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