



Mattie and the President: Heroes for PEACE

Jimmy Carter was born on October 1, 1924. When he was 52 years old, he became President of the United States. Jimmy Carter is a leader, as president he worked hard to make laws that were fair for all people, protect the environment, and promote peaceful solutions to conflict. President Carter is a humanitarian, in 1982, he founded the Carter Center to advance democracy and human rights, fight diseases; improve health care and promote peace, to improve the lives for millions of people around the world. When he was 78 years old, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his humanitarian work. Jimmy Carter is a wise man. Jimmy Carter is a Hero for Peace!

Matthew Joseph Thaddeus Stepanek (Mattie) was born on July 17, 1990. Mattie was born with a disease called Muscular Dystrophy. Just like any other kid, Mattie liked to play video games, collect rocks, and tell jokes. Mattie was curious, he liked to read and learn about people and places around the world. Mattie was kind, he believed that all people should be treated the same and have everything they need to live peacefully and be O.K. Mattie was a gifted writer; he used his gift to write poetry about the importance of peace, being kind to others, and living a meaningful life. When he was 11 years old, he published his first book; *Heartsongs*. Mattie died when he was 14 years old, but his voice for peace is still strong through his poetry and books. Mattie was a wise boy. Mattie was a Hero for Peace!

When Mattie was 11 years old, he met his hero; President Jimmy Carter! Even though Jimmy Carter was 66 years older than Mattie, they became best friends. Mattie would call President Carter on the phone to share funny stories just like you do with your friends. President Carter listened to Mattie's wise words about peace. When President Carter received the Nobel Peace Prize, he thought about Mattie and sent him a special rock from Norway for his rock collection.

Mattie's hero for Peace was President Jimmy Carter; President Jimmy Carter's Hero for Peace was Mattie Stepanek!

Who is your Hero for Peace?

How can you be a Hero for Peace?

Based on the text, why do you think Mattie was a Hero for Peace?

Based on the text, why do you think President Carter is a Hero for Peace?

Why do you think President Carter and Mattie became friends?

How can you be a Hero for Peace?
