

Commendation

Whereas: Sticking one's Neck out for the common Good is an Inspiration to All;
Whereas: Such Risk-taking is vital to a compassionate, peaceful and just World;
Whereas: The Giraffe Heroes Project is commissioned to seek out such Risk-takers
And to honor them for their Deeds;

The Giraffe Heroes Project

Herewith declares

James Tredell Moss

To be a Giraffe Hero

Whose courageous Actions illumine all our Lives,
Making manifest the Truth
That People who believe in Themselves and care for Others
Can meet any Challenge Life presents.

Given this fifth Day of December 2009


Ann Medlock, Founder

Stick Your Neck Out



GIRAFFE HEROES PROJECT

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James Iredell Moss

Gainesville FL

December 11, 2009

Dear Mr. Moss,

You have been nominated as a "Giraffe Hero" because you've stuck your neck out to speak out about chemicals used by the military and to champion vets suffering from Gulf War Syndrome. Information about your work has been reviewed by our researchers and by the jury that selects new Giraffe Heroes.

I'm happy to tell you that you were chosen by the jury to receive the enclosed Giraffe commendation, joining over a thousand people we've honored since 1982. They range in age from 8 to 101 and are working on every problem imaginable. It is an amazing group and I think you will be proud to be one of them.

The Giraffe Heroes Project is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to move people to stand tall and take responsibility for making their world a better place. As part of that mission, we honor people such as you, who are already displaying the kind of courage and commitment we think inspires others into action.

You'll now receive regular news of fellow Giraffes and of the Project's work. Please note that your status as a Giraffe has been established by the work you've already done—nothing further is required of you to maintain your standing.

Our aims are to tell others about you so that they will follow your example, and to help you in any way we can. Our assistance to other Giraffes has included telling their stories in our publications, on our web site, in our speeches and workshops, and in our materials for schools.

For many Giraffes, attention our work has generated has brought volunteers, donations, grants, and community acceptance. For some, the public recognition we've helped create has brought them actual physical safety or has saved them from being fired.

Please go to www.giraffe.org for much more information than I can include here. If you have ideas about how you might participate, please let us know.

Giraffes are being invited into classrooms, assemblies, and forums to inspire people into working for the common good themselves. This is a particularly important part of our work—the future well-being of society depends on how our children view service. Because we want them to grow up understanding what active citizenship is about, we've produced a kindergarten-through-twelfth-grade curriculum called The Giraffe Heroes Program.

As soon as you receive this package, please email me so we can establish contact with you. I'm open to any questions you may have and eager to proceed with telling your story in our work.

For now, on behalf of all Giraffe Heroes in the world, welcome to their good company.

Sincerely,



Ann Medlock
Founder
amedlock@giraffe.org



Giraffe Heroes Project

The Giraffe Heroes Project

**Pushing back against apathy and fear
Moving people into action on the problems that test our times
Giving them tools to succeed**

In person, in print, on the air, and on line —

- ✓ We tell the stories of Giraffe Heroes—people we commend for sticking their necks out for the common good. Their stories inspire others to take on the public challenges *they* see—speaking out against corruption, taking a stand against injustice or fraud, being a voice for the powerless.
- ✓ Giraffe speeches bring people to their feet and into action, inspiring them to solve the public problems that concern them. Giraffe workshops are street-smart trainings in the nuts and bolts of getting the job done. Abroad, the Project trains and coaches activists who are building peace and fighting corruption in the Middle East, Asia, South America and Africa.
- ✓ Articles, Op-Eds and media interviews by Project leaders take strong positions in the national debates on civil liberties, social security, public education and wise leadership.
- ✓ Coverage of Giraffe Heroes has included Good Morning America, *Time*, *People*, *The New York Times*, *Parade*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, the Associated Press and *Education Today* as well as thousands of local print and broadcast outlets.
- ✓ *Stick Your Neck Out: A Street-Smart Guide to Creating Change in Your Community and Beyond* is the Project's handbook for successful, active citizenship.
- ✓ Our website, www.giraffe.org, features inspiring stories of Giraffe Heroes, information on Giraffe programs and products, and interactive ways of sharing the Giraffe message of courageous compassion. Our growing email service delivers inspiration and information to personal computer screens across the country and around the world.

In schools and youth organizations —

- ✓ The K-12 Giraffe Heroes Program uses the stories of real heroes to inspire kids to be brave and caring citizens. Tools honed in Giraffe workshops help the kids create and carry out service projects that solve problems in their communities and beyond.
- ✓ *Voices of Hope* gives kids heroes' stories that build reading skills, while inspiring them into action themselves. The *Voices of Hope Service-Learning Guide* condenses the Project's fifteen years of experience into a concise, user-friendly guide.
- ✓ Recordings of the adventures of twin giraffes Stan Tall & Bea Tall bring Giraffe stories to the very young.
- ✓ Giraffe trainings for educators help them create the next generation of informed, involved citizens.

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For over 20 years we've been inspiring people to stick their necks out for the common good and giving them tools to succeed.