"Spirit of America, Vol. 21" is David J. Marcou’s 162nd book, “Human Character” in another book-series by him. He graduated La Crosse’s St. James and Aquinas School, UW-Madison (BA-1973); University of Iowa (MA-1975), and U-M-Columbia (PhD-1984). After editing Adams-Friendships weeklies in 1990, he was La Crosse correspondent for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel 13 years. Also, he long taught adults writing and photography at Western Technical College, directing-editing 14 group books begun there, including “Light, Shadow, & Spirit”, remaking Edward Steichen’s “Family of Man”. His works have twice been nominated for Pulitzer Awards, The Wisconsin Historical Society and La Crosse Public Library Archives both include online galleries of his work. Smithsonian (SI) Archives; British National Portrait Gallery; and National Assembly Library of Korea also preserve his works. His workshop photos have been in many exhibitions, e.g., the SI National Museum of American History Archives Center’s 2011-2012 “Gift of the Artist” group-show, curated by SI Archivist David Ensbacht. David Marcou also has an online gallery of 3,600 photos on the US Digital Photographer Website. His son, Matthew, an Army Special Ops veteran and now a nationally-recognized Engineering student, is married to Jessica Amareek Marcou, a successful artist and university teacher.

Sponsored by Torn and Joy Marcou.
In Memory of Blessed Mother Teresa, David Bowie, and the Deceased of the Amareek, Sim, and Marcou Families.
Published by DigiCOPY of La Crosse, WI in January 2016.

New Documentary Photos by Author David Joseph Marcou (DJM).

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Author’s Preface for SA21 by David Joseph Marcou.

The first three group-volumes of “Spirit of America” were directed and edited by me, and grew out of the adult writing and photo classes I used to teach for Western Technical College. I’ve added another 18 volumes to this series since then that have been authored solely by me, plus numerous other books. Vols. 16 and 17 of SA each had expanded second editions as well. Vol. 21 is my 102nd book overall. Many famous and workaday people are included in my books. In SA21, we’ve included only about 60 photos. Many of my previous books used many photos per page; this book uses photos a bit larger; we hope they will be easier to appreciate this way.

In Spring 2014, I asked John Medinger, La Crosse’s former mayor and a good friend, to have lunch with me. Soon, John suggested we ask one or two more people to join us. No one who’s joined our group has left it completely, and we have six or seven members, the New Pioneers Lunch Club as we are now known. We discuss many vital and fun topics at our lunches, and I take our picture. Good documentary work is essential to mercy, including among friends. My letter-writing friend and photo-subject Blessed Mother Teresa knew that decently.

Almost all the photos in SA21 were taken recently by me. There are various subjects, but two special events are included too – the signing for my 100th book on Dec. 19, 2015 at Pearl St. Books in La Crosse; and the family Christmas party we enjoyed at Old Country Buffet when my son, Matt, and his wife, Jessica, were in La Crosse. (The latter event was Saturday, Dec. 26, 2015.) It was a very blessed time in our lives, though we’d lost my dad, David A. Marcou Jr., on March 8th, 2015, three weeks after he and Mom celebrated their 65th Valentine Wedding Anniversary with family in Onalaska, WI.

Dad was the first member of our original immediate family of nine, to pass. He was a very positive and productive husband, dad, grandpa, etc., and will long be missed. Dad told humorous stories like no one else I’ve ever heard; and he sang Irish limericks with the best of them. When he sauntered across a Holmen Park bridge at about age 30 in one of Mom’s home-movies, smiling into her camera, he suddenly jumped up and clicked his heels, as my dad knew how to do superbly. He’s included at front of Roger Grant’s photo, in this book, of the cast and crew for one of my best plays, “Remembering Davy Crockett”.

We hope readers of this modest book enjoy it. It would be nice if I sold a few copies too. Thank you to all my subjects and readers, and God bless all those who love young people decently, for there are a couple youngsters pictured in this book too, and they are our future. My thanks also go to sponsors like Tom and Joy Marcou, my mom, my son and his wife, my other family members and friends, and to God Above too, who help make my books, plays, present and future, possible.

Captions and Credits

Captions/Credits "Spirit of America, Vol. 21: Modest Mercies -- Or the New Pioneers Lunch Club"
KEY: DJM=David Joseph Marcou

BW Photos’ Captions-Credits (PP.4-18):
Page 4
AFP’s Mr. Park interviews Mother Teresa, Anyang, South Korea, Jan. 1985 (DJM).

Page 5
Holly and Mary sitting on a porch, Cass St., Dec. 2015 (DJM).
Computer programmer David W. Johns chats with computer programmer St. Monica Muskat, the Marcou homestead, N.D. (DJM).
Bill Peterson hugs LPL Chief Archivist Anita Doering at Top State Archives Awards Event, LPL, ca. 2010 (DJM).

Page 6
Cast and crew of DJM’s Pulitzer-nominated play “Remembering Davy Crockett”, Aquinas Schools, April 2012 (Photo by Roger A. Grant).
John, a neighbor, Dec. 2015 (DJM).
Pre-dawn view of Becker Plaza front-exterior, Dec. 2015 (DJM).

Page 7
Pre-dawn view of 7th & Cass Sts., soon to give way to a traffic-roundabout, Dec. 2015 (DJM).
Logan HS student Samantha, Mayo Clinic, photo chance thanks to Ron and Jim too, Dec. 2015 (DJM).

Page 8
Tom, rolling a cigarette, Cameron Park, Dec. 2015 (DJM).
Young woman about to cross Jay St. across 5th Ave. from “Miracle on 34th Street” marquee, Dec. 2015 (DJM).
Addie, a neat little girl in a window, Hmong Golden Egg Roll Café, 1-8-16 (DJM).

Page 9
WKBT-CBS-TV reporter Keely Arthur, President Obama UW-L event, 7-2-15 (DJM).
Close-up of Lauren sitting on a Riverside Park bench, Summer 2015 (DJM).
Lauren Alexander by her bike, Summer 2015 (DJM).

Page 10
(L-R) Roger Chase, Charlie Freiberg, and DJM, Tomah, WI, 9-12-15 (DJM).
Neighbor scraping ice from car window, ca. Dec. 2015 (DJM).
Marcia Wilson, a neighbor, chats with neighbor lady*, while walking their dogs, ca. Dec. 2015 (DJM).

Page 11
Woman talking with homeless man, Wesley United Methodist Church grounds, Dec. 2015 (DJM).

Page 12
Man & his reflection, Pearl St., 12-19-15 (DJM).

Page 13

Page 14
Leah, a bank teller, 1-11-16 (DJM).

Page 15
Girl at Old Country Buffet, 12-26-15 (DJM).

Page 16
Minnetonka box my Badger Strong gift-hoodie was packed in, Old Country Buffet, 12-26-15 (DJM).

Page 17
(L-R) Matt, Jessica, Vicki, Dan, Dennis, and Polly, all members of the Marcou family, Old Country Buffet, 12-26-15 (DJM).
Katie and Mary Kate Temp and Lynn Marcou photographing DJM among Marcou sons, Old Country Buffet, 12-26-15 (DJM).

Page 18
(L-R) My mom (Rose C. Muskat Marcou) with my sisters Lynn, Mary Kate, and Diane, Old Country Buffet, 12-26-15 (DJM).

Color Photos’ Captions-Credits (PP.19-20):
Page 19
Woman by car, and man with 2 dogs, in snowstorm, Dec. 2015 (DJM).
Barb Henderson, a neighbor, Dec. 2015 (DJM).
Ignacio Peterson, a neighbor, 2015 (DJM).
Katz Kromke Palmer’s passing indicated by truck of her belongings being packed up to be conveyed, ca. Dec. 2015 (DJM).
First Student orange school bus, 1-7-16 (DJM).
Ms. C. Murphy and her dog, Amelia, Jan. 2016 (DJM).
(L-R) Charlie Freiberg, Steve and Phyllis (CF’s sister) Varsos, UW-Madison football pre-game party, 9-12-15 (DJM).
Badger gal in Wisconsin jersey before football game, UW-Madison, 9-12-15 (DJM).

Page 20
Dawn, 2015 (DJM).
Distinctively dressed home-owner, Cass St., ca. 2015 (DJM).
Isabella with orange hair, Cass St., Dec. 2015 (DJM).
2 girls just-off school bus, Dec. 2015 (DJM).
Little girl wearing special boots, Old Country Buffet, 12-26-15 (DJM).
(L-R) Mickey’s girlfriend Any, Mickey’s niece Addie, and Mickey, Hmong Golden Egg Roll Café, 1-8-16 (DJM).
Portrait on Katie Temp’s smart phone held by her mom, Mary Kate Temp, Old Country Buffet, 12-26-15 (DJM).
(L-R) Roger A. Grant, John Medinger, Mark Felker, Joe Kotnour, Kerry Hruska, and David Joseph Marcou*, the New Pioneers Lunch Club, Hmong Golden Egg Roll Café, 1-8-16 (DJM).
SA21 sponsors Tom and Joy Marcou walking hand-in-hand in Times Square, NYC, 4-9-11 (DJM).
Main photo
Union Station, arched row, (DC), 2010;
Inset photos (Left to right)
Legends of the Human Spirit, Smithsonian, (DC), ca. 2006
(Matthew A. Marcou);
Twin Harps, Lake Onalaska Gazebo, 2010, (Lorie Oldenburg)