For God, the memory of David A. Marcou Jr., Tony Skifton, Tom Elsen, & Dick Kiedrowski, plus living Red & Jean Hiser family, Marcou/Muskat family & friends, & our subjects, sponsors, employers, teachers, students, peers, officials, care-providers, medics, clerics, technician- publishers, readers, archivists/ librarians.

"So for those of us still standing after these seven decades, what are we to do now? In the movie ‘Saving Private Ryan,’ when star Tom Hanks’ (Army Ranger Capt. John H. Miller) lay dying he said to Private Ryan, ‘Earn it.’ —Friend/former/Mayor John Medinger in his 4-8-18 column LAXtrib.

“I love the game, personally. My teammates help me out good and my school is good,” Jamarion Styles, 13-year-old basketball hero without arms.

“Art is when a human tells another human what it is to be human.” —Adaro Elmes

“The people who are trying to make this world worse aren’t taking a day off. How am I?” —Bob Marley

“Life is a marathon, not a sprint.” —Jamarion Styles, 13-year-old basketball hero without arms.

“Art is when a human tells another human what it is to be human.” —Adaro Elmes

“Never lose sight of the fact that the most important yardstick of your success will be how you treat other people – your family, friends, and coworkers, and even strangers along the way.” —First Lady Barbara Bush (1925-2018), shared on Facebook by Steve Maraboli & DvJM.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love endures forever.” —Psalm 118:1.

“Sometimes they are happy to be alive.” —From a Dion Kempthorne poem about people’s positive memories of Abe Lincoln & Elvis Presley.

With all he’s authored so far, including helping conceive a truly great son; plus his 153 published books; more than 1,250 published short non-fiction writings; 15 plays; many hundreds of poems; & hundreds of thousands of photos he’s taken, DvJM is Wisconsin’s all-time most prolific author.
A Capital Easter -- Inspiring My Son & Me, Thanks to Family, Friends, & a DC Sojourn.—By David Joseph Marcou.

At Eastertime 2000, my son and I visited my brother Tom and his wife, Joy, in Washington, DC, where they worked for the federal government. Since it was Matt and my first visit there, Tom and Joy helped plan our itinerary and tour key sites. On Easter Saturday, we visited the National Cathedral (Episcopalian) and National Basilica (Catholic). Picture-taking was good, and we collected other keepsakes too. We’d been to the White House and the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum on Friday. We’d visit Arlington National Cemetery, Capitol Hill, and the Supreme Court, plus the Mall of Monuments too, during that one-week sojourn.

After Mass at St. Matthew’s Catholic Church on Easter Sunday 2000, Tom and Joy drove us to Mt. Vernon, George Washington’s historic estate. We photographed the garden, slave quarters, museum, stables, and house interior. Later that day, Joy was one of the public readers in a re-enactment ceremony at its historic tomb.

Matt and I authored a booklet back in La Crosse, “Vital Washington,” a day-by-day written account of our visit, with photos included. We’ve visited the DC area since 2000, mainly separately. (Though in Feb. 2012, we’d meet in DC to visit the Smithsonian group-show "Gift of the Artist", which included two Presidential Campaign photos I’d taken in 2008. Many of our family and friends visited that show too. SINMAHAC Archivist David Haberstich curated that show.)

One of Matt’s high school graduation presents from me was so he could take the train to and from DC himself, to stay with Tom and Joy in 2006. He very much wanted to do that by himself as a rite of passage. Matt’s worked for the federal government since 2006 in various capacities, and we enjoy talking about our visit in 2000 to Washington, DC, which still brings our family a little more positively together. Easters have been more special ever-since.—Slightly shorter version of this DvJM essay was in Easter Sun. online LaX Tribune, 4-1-18, “A Capital Easter”.

British Heritage, Nov. 2002, P. 58+, w/ 1 colour photo. Sec.: 1st editions. The latest books, videos, & music about Britain.

The Queen: 50 Years—A Celebration, by Ronald Allison. Published by HarperCollins and Distributed in America by Trafalgar Square, P.O. Box 257, North Pomfret, Vermont 06053. Hardcover. $35.00. 192 pages.

In this beautifully illustrated, well-written, “unauthorized” biography of HM Queen Elizabeth II and her 50-year reign, her former press secretary Ronald Allison covers in year-by-year fashion the considerable highlights, as well as the low points, of her reign since succeeding her father, King George VI, in 1952. Following a superb introductory overview, Allison begins the story on 6th February 1952, with the British nation in mourning over the loss of one of its dearest Kings. The late King’s eldest child was asked, during the arranging for his funeral, what name she should be known by—she replied, “Why, Elizabeth of course.” The New Elizabethan Age had begun. After nearly 40 years of beneficial reign—including the reshaping of the Commonwealth; conflicts in Israel, Korea, the Suez, the Falklands, and the Persian Gulf; the Beatles; IRA violence; the first woman prime minister in British history, and many, many international crises and milestones—the Queen said in her 1991 Christmas Message: “Over the years I have tried to follow my father’s example and to serve you as best I can. You have given me, in return, your loyalty and your understanding, and for that I give you my heartfelt thanks.” From handling horses and dogs to meeting all types of people, the Queen is great, and has a real sense of humour, as this book’s best photos show.

Following hard on the heels of her 1991 Christmas message came the “Annus Horribilis,” 1992, when during fire destroyed parts of her childhood home of Windsor Castle. Andrew Morton’s Divana, Her True Story created a Royal stir after being serialized in the Sunday Times. The Duke and Duchess of York announced they would be separating. Last but not least, the Prince and Princess of Wales let it be known that they, too, would separate.

HM Queen Elizabeth II has never compared herself with Elizabeth I, whom she thought not very nice, due to the latter’s lack of family and her despotism. As wonderful as she knows her contacts with the famous have been, she more importantly feels that her “common” subjects are worth every bit as much to her nation’s success as any prime minister, and the Queen has done many things to democratize her reign. She has opened up many formerly aristocracy-invited events to commoners. This includes her Royal tours outside England, which have been very people-oriented. And she has done a real service to the status of Knights and Dames by inviting many truly deserving people with these titles. Also, after Windsor Castle was burned, she opened parts of Buckingham Palace to visitors.

The Queen’s marriage to Prince Philip and a rock-solid Christian faith help, too, the Prince, who can raise others’ eyebrows, has been a firm backer of his wife (as were the Queen Mum and Elizabeth’s sister, Princess Margaret, among other key family members, while living), through 55 years of marriage, seldom taking the spotlight himself. Great as it is, I wish this book had included a photo of their wedding.

In her 2000 Christmas message, the Queen said that Jesus’ simple teaching of “love God and love thy neighbour as thyself,” has given spirituality broad goals. Likewise, her subjects and fans love Queen Elizabeth II as much as her parents were loved—no small thing.—By David Joseph Marcou

A Little Story About Family – Originally written for the La Crosse Tribune ca. 2007 by David Joseph Marcou.

I’m a family, we all have had, now have, and/or will have. We’re a human family with big aims. We want to be known as good people and say rosaries regularly, too. When their health was better, they used to deliver meals-on-wheels. And once in a great while, for fun, they drive down to Baltimore to visit their offspring, and talking with neighbors, like Al, Mazie, Larry and Marcia, and Toni — like many of us do.

My siblings are decent people, too. My brother Dennis is a judge, whose judgments are fair; he has four children, one granddaughter, and a special friend [later wife], Polly. My brother Dan just retired as director of training for this city’s police department. He’ll soon publish his first novel; he’s already published two histories of the department. He teaches, is married to Vicki, and they have two children and two grandchildren. My brother Tom, an Air Force veteran, and his wife, Joy, work hard and well for our nation’s government in Washington. They live in Arlington, Virginia and have two offspring. My sisters also number three. Diane is a civilian police employee who’s seen great tragedies and triumphs firsthand. She is married to Rocky, and they have three children (Tony passed though, in 1997) and two grandchildren. They recently returned from a visit to Gettysburg, where their young son, Danny, was the star, wearing his re-enactor gear. Lynn is a team leader at a local department store. She has four children, and three grandchildren, and they all work and play hard. Mary “Kate” is an accountant, married to a CPA, Mike [later, divorced]. They have two offspring, and are big Badger, Packer, Buck, and Twin fans. I’ve tried talking Mike into getting on the Brewer Bandwagon, but he’s still noncommittal about that.

My own son, Matthew, is a chemistry major and computer technician at the UM-Minneapolis. Matt has good friends, including Greg, Mike, Tom, Sam, Brett, and Brent, and [good friend] Angelica. I also have a cousin, Steve Kieckhorski, an actor and artist, who has a good day-job as art inspector for a local printing company. He has two sons and a special friend, Julie. His mom, Margaret, is alive and kicking at 90. After I’d written one guest column in 2000, Steve suggested I apply to be a Tribune contributing columnist, which I became. Richard, this paper’s opinion page editor, has continued publishing my columns, ever since.

Nothing too flashy, but decent intimations of inspiration, I hope. I’ll write a column sometime about other everyday heroes — other relatives, friends, and associates. I hope you read it, as this one, and understand how one columnist’s life has come together a bit better due to that work. (To be sure I’ve authored many columns, essays, poems, plays, articles, photos, & books re: everyday heroes before this column & since; everyday heroes are Life’s foundation.)
Jump-down gal, LaX, 4-24-18 (DvJM).
Goodyea-composition, Cass St., LaX, 4-24-18 (DvJM).
Big person approaching, 7th St., LaX, 4-25-18 (DvJM).
Hell's Kitchen's southern border on 34th St., NYC, 4-9-11 (DvJM).
David A. Marcou Jr. & former Mayor John Medinger shake hands, Becker Plaza, ca. 2013 (DvJM).
Likely my son Mam Back-Center w/ friend, back from large motorcycle, LaX, ca. 2013 (DvJM).
Motorcycle riding by brick building, Powell Place, LaX, ca. 2013 (DvJM).
Trio approach on Main St. sidewalk, LaX, ca. 2013 (DvJM).
Worker w/ cart in nice composition at back of People's Food Co-op, LaX, ca. 2013 (DvJM).
Man riding bike on sidewalk, LaX, ca. 2013 (DvJM).
Woman approaching by Wells Fargo Bank, LaX, ca. 2013 (DvJM).

SA68 Interior Color Pics' Captions-Credits:

SA67 author-photographer David Joseph Marcou (2nd From Right in Front), plus Back L-R: Dan, Tom, Dennis, Diane, Lynn; & Front L-R: Dad (David A. Jr.), Mom (Rose), DvJM, & Mary Kate, LaX, ca. 1972, by a studio photographer.

Unique Artist's Entry, Root Note, LaX, 3-17-18 (DvJM).

Steve Kiedrowski & DvJM at signing for DvJM's 150th & 151st books, Pearl St. Books, LaX (Photo by Rich McCowen).
Roses's Boys & Girls, Grizzly's, early Mother's Day Party for her, 4-24-18 (Photo by our waitress I believe, Rachel).
Full-length photo-portrait of featured Holocaust Survivor speaker-writer Estelle Laughlin, Viterbo U., 3-22-18 (DvJM).
Head & shoulder photo-portrait of Estelle Laughlin, VU, LaX, 3-22-19 (DvJM).

Old Style Lager neon sign, Grizzly's, LaX, 4-24-18 (DvJM).
Grizzly's employees (L-R) Alex, Dalton, & Rachel, LaX, 4-24-18 (DvJM).
Neighbor Elaine, King her pet, & Rich McCowen, neighbor, Becker Plaza, LaX, 4-24-18 (DvJM).
Budding tree & US flag on pole, Stoffel Court, LaX, March 2018 (DvJM).

Steve K., Rich McCowen, & Carol Hutchison, reading, Pearl St. Books, LaX, 4-21-18 (DvJM).

First Robin of Spring, March 2018 (DvJM).

Female shopper in produce department, LaX, 4-3-18 (DvJM).

U.S. Flag by Rose Marcou's flowering plants by her then-Prospect St. home's front steps, LaX, ca. 2013 (DvJM).

An American Farm, between DC & LaX, ca. April 2010 (DvJM).

Guadalupe Shrine main icon, Shrine Dedication Day, LaX, 7-31-08 (DvJM).

A US Flag by Rose Marcou's flowering plants by her then-Prospect St. home's front steps, LaX, ca. 2013 (DvJM).