

Impact Statement

Jaemin Lee, Grade 6.

God Bless America, 2023.

Digital art, 11 x 14 inches.

Cougar Mountain Middle School, Issaquah, WA

Ungsung Hero: Anna Smith Strong

As my chosen Ungsung Hero, Anna Smith Strong, once said, "I am one of those who never know the direction of my journey until I have almost arrived," I was having a really hard time deciding what hero I was going to draw. Then, I spotted a name that was undeniably unique, my future subject of my art piece, Anna Strong. She stuck out to me because of her caption, "Only female member of George Washington's Culper Spy Ring during the American Revolution." I was at once intrigued by this mysterious new character, the only female member of George Washington's Culper spy ring, so I decided to give Anna a shot. Something I found really inspirational about Anna Strong was that she was willing to be on the sidelines to help America. She probably wanted to do more than signal her allies, but with her help, George Washington was able to defeat the Brits. Without her aid, the Culper Spy Ring would have been at loss at where to go and probably would have been captured by the Brits. While reading this information, I admired how brave and courageous Anna was, because if she'd been caught, it would have all been over. After this, I immediately made up my mind to draw Anna, and I never once regretted it.

There were quite a few gaps in Anna Strong's history, so I had to sew it all together from many different websites. I discovered that she was famous for her laundry, which was confusing at first, but then I realized that she used her laundry to signal her fellow spies, which I thought was ingenious. Anna's job was to signal a man named Brewster's arrival to another man named Woodhull, so he would know what cove Brewster was in and passed along secret messages. So, I decided to draw her signaling Woodhull with her laundry. I wanted to express how hardworking Anna was by drawing this whole scene at night, so people would know Anna worked day and night for America and George Washington.

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After finishing this drawing, I realized that this experience taught me a valuable lesson. Anna Smith Strong has inspired me so much, and she's definitely going to be one of my role models from now. Every time something hard comes up, I will remember how valiant and resilient Anna was, and I'll try a little harder, because if Anna could do a much harder job that I'm doing right now, why can't I? She's made a huge impact on me, and without a doubt, I'm going to teach

other people who she was and why she was so important. It saddens me greatly that she was part of this competition, and not recognized as much as her fellow allies. But in a strange way, I'm also grateful, because if she wasn't part of the list of Unsung Heroes, I would've never known about her. Thank you, Anna, for standing up and helping your country. God bless America, indeed.