

Impact Statement

Phat Ngo, Grade 12.
Higgins Eureka, 2019.
Clay, 4.5 x 22 x 3 Inches.
Marshall School, Duluth, MN
Unsung Hero: Andrew Jackson Higgins

History is one of the subjects that I really adore to study not because how old it can be but to remember pieces of the past and find out what are the things we can apply back to the present. Unsung Hero is one of the themes I can remind of the people who have to contribute to society by their ability to make a difference and turn the face of the war to a better future.

Andrew Higgins, born in Nebraska in 1886 has a very talented and creative mind, a very hard-working person in his early life, and he is an Unsung Hero of America, the winner of World War II. At the age of 12, Andrew created a vessel that was so large, he had to take it partly to bring it outside. In the early age, he was in Alabama and had several lumber jobs to get more money. In the early 1920s, he started his own timber business in New Orleans in the hope to design a boat that catches people's attention is very valuable to him. His creativity and many times of drafting the design even at night show that his imagination is everywhere, every time. As his business reputation rise with and notified the Navy, they wanted to test Andrew's boat in 1938. It was a successful trial for "Eureka" military transport boat. Eureka's goal was to hold more people with good quality and durability, efficiency is really important for this type of boat. In addition, it also outperformed the Navy's design. His company, Higgins Industries, turned into a mass-production of low-cost, and high efficiency after he got the government's contract to produce more boat. Not only it is the biggest company with 20,000 workers but it also brings people together from African American, women, elders to disabled.

His effort paid off for him in later years of invading Normandy. Andrew made the invasion possible to push back Germany with sea-landing transportation. Before D-Day, most of Navy military boat was built by Higgins. Andrew Higgins was a countryman who used his idea to serve for a larger purpose, especially at the time of war and without him, Germany would go overseas and dominated other countries around the world. He didn't work himself to be the top but to contribute something to his country and it made him a legend. Andrew's passion for building the boat was what made him do what he loves later in his life open a new future for him.

For me, Andrew Higgins isn't just a war hero but also a passionate, strong, and hard-working man I have ever heard. His ability to imagine and turn something impossible into reality is a great achievement. Diversity wasn't a big thing in the 1900s but Andrew made it happen when he gave works to different kind of people from different races, different genders, and what they are capable to do. It helps me to think about how people should work together and that creates the power to do everything. Higgins Industries is an extraordinary example of how a community created. Andrew Higgins is one of the Unsung Heroes that I will always consider an inspiration. Having a "Eureka" moment while looking beyond the impossibilities of life to understand how my skill sets and what I can do will benefit society.