

Good evening, everyone.

It's great to see so many people here to honor our good friend and neighbor, John Smith. Even though we are of many different ages and have all kinds of jobs and interests, it is certain that we all have one thing in common: our admiration of a man who never quits until the job is done. That man, of course, is John Smith.

I've known John for about 10 years. I first met him at a Little League game shortly after we moved here and my wife and I were watching Timmy play. He was about 8 years old at the time. Anyway, this woman sitting near us was complaining about the sun. I remembered my wife and I were almost annoyed because you expect sun in an afternoon baseball game and we were glad the game wasn't rained out. But the woman kept going on and on about how we needed some clouds to break up the sun. John was also sitting nearby.

Not one to just listen, John went over to the lady and said, "I can't do anything about the weather but maybe this will help." He handed her an umbrella that he had gone to his car to get and urged her to use it as a shield from the sun. She was ecstatic. As it turned out, some friends had given her a ride to the game and it was the one chance she had to see her nephew play. But because she had had some skin cancers removed, she was justifiably concerned about the sun.

Had John done nothing, the rest of us would have continue to listen to her complaining - which was not something we wanted to hear - and the sun exposure might have given her more problems down the road. I was so impressed with what John had done, I knew that this was someone I wanted to know and so I introduced myself. John and I have been close friends ever since.