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Assignment 5

American Values

The Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Alonzo H. Cushing demonstrated remarkable bravery and leadership during the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. Cushing exemplified the highest standards of courage and heroism in the American armed forces and provided a powerful inspiration for future generations to emulate.

First Lieutenant Alonzo H. Cushing was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. Cushing commanded Battery A of the 4th United States Artillery. While Cushing was commanding the Battery A team, he was mortally wounded defending Cemetery Hill against Confederate soldiers' ruthless attacks. Despite being mortally wounded, Cushing's refused to leave the battlefield and continued to give orders and direct the line of fire of his battery until he was dead. "It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced." (Lincoln, 1863). Cushing exhibited several values often associated with the Congressional Medal of Honor, including bravery, leadership, and devotion to duty. "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." (King, 1963). Cushing's selfless sacrifice in the face of deadly enemy fire is an inspiration to all who serve in the armed forces and a reminder of the high cost of freedom. Additionally, the way Cushing led his men in the face of adversity, and his determination to fight even in the face of certain death, is an example of leadership and courage.

This week's reading looks at chapter 8 of "Justice: What is the right thing to do." In this reading, Sandel talks about Aristotle, one of the most important philosophers from Greece. Sandel writes, "For

Aristotle, justice means giving people what they deserve, giving each person his or her due." (Sandel, 2015). Lieutenant Alonzo Cushings got his "due" after receiving the Medal of Honor for his brave actions. Cushing was a brave leader who didn't give up until the end. Bill Taylor talks about leadership in this week's reading of "True Leaders Believe Dissent is an Obligation." Taylor argues that true leaders view dissent as an obligation rather than a threat. He suggests that influential leaders encourage and value dissenting opinions and that the best decisions are made when diverse perspectives exist. "Deep down, many of us believe that if you are not winning, you are losing" (Taylor, 2017). A strong statement with lots of meaning behind it. Cushing didn't care if he was winning at that moment; he bravely led his team until the very end.

In conclusion, First Lieutenant Alonzo H. Cushing's actions during the Battle of Gettysburg serve as an inspiration to all, and his example of bravery, leadership, and selflessness should be remembered and emulated by all who served in the armed forces, as well as all citizens who wish to make the world a better place.

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