They Didn’t Need to be Heroes

Sara Davis*
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Focus on the good they say, those selfless lives now lost.
Remember what they gave that day, and how they paid the cost.
Oh, they were heroes, through and through, and gave the precious gift;
to save a life, they gave their own and yes they will be missed.
We honor now the fallen dead, we tweet and share their name,
we flood our feeds with pictures of those heroes just the same.
But here’s the thing, they didn’t need to be heroes at all.
And while we honor sacrifice, they didn’t need to fall
Unfortunate as it may be, each time we share their face,
unwittingly we draw attention from the needed place.
They didn’t need to be heroes, they didn’t need to die.
They would not have had to become another Sacrifice.
Each time we honor those now dead, and say forget the one
who took upon himself the post of god and shot the gun.
Each time the focus shifts to them, the heroes who have died,
the men in power, with their wealth are surely satisfied.
It’s time we talk about the crime and all those who commit,
from triggers pulled, to donations, the royal
one percent.
They did not need to be heroes, they did not need
to die,
and men in power have the means to stop us
asking why.
But I would say, remember those in whose hands
lay the guns.
who take away our heroes and our daughters and
our sons.
Remember what they did I say, remember and
perhaps
the rage and wrath will finally eliminate
the gaps,
the gaps in all the rhetoric, the flaws in all
the laws,
and maybe once we remember we’ll gather in
our cause.
We’ll keep the heroes living long, the children
we’ll protect
with reformation, new ideas, and mutual
respect.
I will not be the next hero, I will not give
my life
because some coward with a gun decides that I
should die.
They didn’t want to be heroes, nor did they want
to die!
No perfect solution exists, at least we still
can try.