

SEPTEMBER'S UNSUNG HERO OF THE MONTH

We would like to congratulate and sing the praises of Lesley Westbrook, OTC's humble librarian.

Walking into the library is like stepping into a spiritual retreat. Lesley's touch is everywhere. Soothing music in the background. Posters of beloved animals. Cheerful, artfully arranged book displays. Aromatherapy. You feel it instantly, the knots of day-to-day stress melting away. Leaving this sanctuary you feel as rejuvenated as the rich and famous at five-star resorts. At first glance, Lesley comes across as quiet as a church mouse. But don't be fooled by her soft-spoken demeanor. Her delightful wit is coupled with a mischievous gleam in her eyes. Her quips are no match for Bob Hope. Her smile outshines the sun. Inside this small lady beats the heart of a giant. Lesley's love for books is only rivaled by her compassion for all creatures, great and small, bright and beautiful. She supports charities that work tirelessly to rescue and rehabilitate abused animals. She herself comes to their aid when no one is looking, saves newspapers for animal shelters, feeds those without a home. She doesn't seek accolades for her heroic efforts. She does it because it's the right thing to do.

One time I needed resources on short notice for a term paper. I called to find out if she had any on hand for that particular subject. Later she called to say she had happened across some resources. I strolled into the library and nearly keeled over from shock. This lady--bless her heart--had pulled several materials from the shelves, some with oodles of information, others with the faintest reference to my topic. And the crowning touch: she used post-its to earmark the pages. I asked with a deadpan face, "Since you've gone to all this trouble, would you be so kind as to write the term paper for me?" In equally deadpan fashion, she replied, "Only if you pay your overdue library fines."

Lesley didn't have to go to all this trouble for me, but it's in her nature to go the extra mile. She doesn't seek accolades for her efforts in helping customers. She does it because it's the right thing to do.

No doubt about it. Amongst all of God's creatures, great and small, Lesley Westbrook is the brightest and most beautiful.

OPERATIONAL TEST COMMAND