

Dear hero,

You probably don't know who I am, but I know who you are.

You are the fighter on the front line, keeping me safe. You are the brave adapter who saw the challenge— and yet didn't back down. You are the stone wall that builds and holds a nation in the middle of this storm. YOU ARE A HERO.

I admire your compassion. You put yourself at risk to fight for your fellow human beings. You distance yourself from your partner, your child, your brother, your friend— all to bring the world together. Every time you put on that mask, it is an act of bravery and one that will be written in history books never to be forgotten.

When you walk through those doors, please remember: you have an entire community standing right by you, separated by distance, connected by hope, and inspired by your work.

Thank you, hero. Truly. I'm so proud to call myself your neighbor. I would hug you if I could!

Aby Connell