

## Courageous Leadership

### Courage<sup>1</sup>

The state or quality of mind or spirit that enables one to face danger, fear, or vicissitudes with self-possession, confidence, and resolution.

### Leadership<sup>2</sup>

Leadership involves:

1. Establishing a clear vision;
2. Sharing that vision with others so they follow willingly;
3. Providing the information, knowledge, and methods to realize that vision;
4. Coordinating and balancing the conflicting interests of all members and stakeholders; and
5. Thinking and acting creatively in times of crisis.

### The Six Attributes of Courage<sup>3</sup>

1. Feeling fear yet choosing to act.  
*"Have the courage to act instead of react."* – Oliver Wendell Holmes
2. Following your heart.  
*"Passion is and should always be the heart of courage."* – Midori Komatsu
3. Persevering in the face of adversity.  
*"Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says I'll try again tomorrow."* – Mary Anne Radmacher
4. Standing up for what is right.  
*"From caring comes courage."* – Lao Tzu
5. Expanding your horizons; letting go of the familiar.  
*"This world demands the qualities of youth; not a time of life but a state of mind, a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite for adventure over the life of ease."* – Robert F. Kennedy
6. Facing suffering with dignity.  
*"The ideal [leader] bears the accidents of life with dignity and grace, making the best of circumstances."* – Aristotle

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<sup>1</sup> American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition, 2011

<sup>2</sup> Business Dictionary.com, obtained 9/13/16 from <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/leadership.html>

<sup>3</sup> Greenberg, M. (August 23, 2012). *Psychology Today*. Obtained 9/13//16 from <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-mindful-self-express/201208/the-six-attributes-courage>