

A Tribute to Captain Sir Tom Moore

by

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As the Covid-19 virus took hold in early 2020, the Government announced a series of lockdowns and the mood in the Country quickly became one of quiet apprehension. No one knew what the future held and many people feared for their own health, the health of their loved ones, their jobs and livelihoods and wondered how they would manage going forwards.

Quite un-expectedly, out of the gloom, came a very modest and unlikely hero...Captain Tom Moore (Captain Tom).

At the age of 99, supported by his loving family, he set about raising a small amount of money (£1,000) to support "NHS Charities Together" by walking 100 lengths of his garden before his 100th birthday. Little did he know how this extraordinary challenge would play out and capture the hearts of the Nation and people around the world!

Soon, the money began to pour in from all corners of the globe. In a short time it became clear that his charitable act would raise a substantial amount. I remember Piers Morgan chipping in with a decent amount live on morning TV. The rest is history. On the 16th April 2020 he achieved his goal by finishing lap 100....and the cash just kept rolling in. On the morning of his 100th birthday, the total soared to £30 million. Later that day the figure had reached a staggering £32.7 million.

He received many accolades and awards and was quite rightly invested as a Knight Bachelor by the Queen in the gardens of Windsor Castle. To his amusement, he became the oldest artist ever to claim the UK No 1 spot with his cover of "You'll Never Walk Alone" in collaboration with Michael Ball and the NHS "Voices of Care" choir.

I'm sure we all know his background story which has been repeated many times. What I would like to say is that Captain Tom took the decision to do whatever he could in support of the fight against this dreadful virus and embarked on a successful mission for which he will be forever remembered.

He did not, for one minute, think about himself, but thought about all the sacrifices being made by others and how he could help.

My lasting memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore was his sense of optimism. There are many quotes worthy of reflection but this one, in particular says it all

"We will get through it in the end but it might take time, but at the end of the day we shall all be OK again... the sun will shine on you again and the clouds will go away"

Captain Tom passed away peacefully on the 2nd February after catching Covid-19. His loving family were with him at the end.

Rest in peace 'Captain Tom', your legacy lives on...."You'll Never Walk Alone".