

OPINION: Winter Reflection



"If you can't find a good role model, be one"
Gale Anne Hurd.

I'm sorry Ned Stark, winter isn't coming. In fact, Spring is almost here.

The birds are chirping, the snow is melting and dripping, and going out isn't as taxing as it has been. Honestly, every winter I get annoyed with the complaints about the cold and of course the snow. I've been thankful to live in an area that truly experiences each season at its greatest. Though this

Winter, put me in my place.

I can drive in the snow. I don't mind shoveling and stockpiling the fridge and pantry "just in case." It isn't an unusual task for me...but the snow kept coming. My body was screaming from the work it caused. Going anywhere became such an aggravation. Being a good driver didn't mean that other people would have the same skills on the icy/snow covered streets. This was the worst case scenario for many people and even their cars!

Now let's face it, everyone got a touch of depression and annoyance at the weather. So when the snow blindness sub-sided and the sun started shining a little brighter many of us started to feel better. I know I did. But with my mind a little clearer and the bouts of cabin fever behind me I started to reflect on things.

Say what you want about our winter apocalypse, good stuff did happen because of it. Faith in humanity was restored for many people who found themselves in need and people came to help. Others found work in snow removal. People took initiative. Maybe not everyone, but many people did. That in itself is a great thing! Even people who just made it to work everyday is a huge deal. There are visiting nurses and hospice workers who care for those that do not get better because the roads are not plowed well. So they went to work. There are teachers who have dozens of students who know them, are comfortable with them and need them there. So they went to work. There are daycare workers who watch the children of parents that need to work to feed them. Those children know these workers and rely on the constancy of their presence. So they went to work. There are grocery store workers who unlock the doors, stock the food, collect the carts and check us out. Who if did not show up, we would be at a loss. So they went to work. There are animal rescuers and officers who can't wait for the weather to subside to get an animal out of the conditions to save it's life or go to shelter so they can feed them. So they

went to work. There are also those who run homeless shelters where the need in harsh, unforgiving weather is a matter of life or death. So they went to work.

There is no insignificant job, only insignificant people unwilling to work them at their fullest capability.

Thank you to the doctors, nurses, teachers, plow drivers, store workers, coffee makers (dear God thank you so much!), utility companies, postal workers, shelters owners and volunteers, and just thank you everyone! You kept the wheels turning when the snow tried to stop us all dead in our tracks.

You all made a difference and I hope you at the very least feel some pride in yourself. Thank you.
