

Introduction

A hero to me is a person that admires people that have the courage enough to want to help them and actually do it. Some heroes don't get noticed or even recognized because of jealousy and/or the color of their skin. I feel Garrett Morgan is an American Hero because his inventions have kept our society safer to this day.

Early Life

Garrett Morgan was born in Paris, Kentucky on March 4, 1877. He was the seventh of eleven children of Elizabeth Reed and Sydney Morgan, a former slave. His father was the son of John Hunt Morgan, a confederate colonel. Garrett went only to elementary school because he had to help his family on the farm. He left home in his early teen for Ohio to find a job.

Goals and Obstacles

He used the money from his first job to pay a tutor to teach him because he only had a 5th grade education. Since, he was mixed race that did make it a little easier to get a job, but it was still hard for him because he was still black. He had to deal with segregation and racism a lot, but it did not stop him from his goals of trying to make things better and safer for people.

Accomplishments

He sold his first invention, the sewing machine belt for \$50. After working at the sewing machine shop, he was able to make many improvements to the machine that he decided to open his own shop. Also, he invented a breathing mask that we call a gas mask and it has saved many lives of firefighters and soldiers. He saved workers out of a tunnel when a gas pipe burst by using his gas mask. Later in years he was recognized for this with the International Association of Fire Engineers. Another big invention was the stop light because it has helped to keep everyone safe when driving and people crossing streets all over the world. Also, he donated to the Association of Colored Men and he founded the National Safety Device Company which was one of his greatest finds. One of his coolest invention to me was the straightening product for African Americans.

Closing

Garrett Morgan is a very important inventor that has saved communities and so many people's lives. As an African American, he got through life with segregation and Jim Crow laws and still was able to invent amazing things. He lived a very long life from 1877 to 1963, which he died at the age of 86. You can always become a Garrett Morgan or any hero you admire. You are capable to be whatever you want.