

# Zero talent Part 3

By Wayne Bailey

**P**assion. Nelson Mandela said, "There is no passion to be found playing small; in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living." When you have passion as part of your DNA, it can be seen like a lighthouse on an ocean cliff. If you have passion for your children, there is nothing small in the way you show it and treat your loved ones. When you have passion for the fire service, you show up to work early, volunteer to do extra at work or at a place you may volunteer for after work or on weekends.

Anthony J D'Angelo said, "Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow." In our line of business, we're always learning. If you're not, it's like treading water in a swift river. You're going to go backwards.

Being prepared. In our job, we have KSAs ie knowledge skills and attitude. Let's break it down.

## Knowledge (Cognitive)

We need to have factual and verbal knowledge of what is expected of us. We begin to learn this when we go through rookie school and emergency medical technician (first responder) school. You may have learned something having to recite a medical procedure, know the different types of shock using rimes or the knowledge to figure how much water you need to flow to put out a fully involved two storey commercial building with 9 290 square metre (100 000 square feet).

## Skills

Skills are also called psychomotor skills. They are routinely developed and automatically performed. In our job, it could be a knot tied in the dark or behind our back without looking. It just happens from tying the same knot a thousand times.

## Attitudes

Attitudes can be good or bad. In this article, we will discuss positive attitudes. Maya Angelou said, "If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude." This is difficult to accept, especially for me. Sometimes you have to have an attitude check from the neck up. Ask a close friend or confidant about your attitude.

John Maxwell said, "People may hear your words but they feel your attitude." It's true. Words are cheap when it comes to feelings. We will always remember how someone makes us feel. If I tell someone I hope they get feeling better verses giving them a hug and saying it, the message becomes more personal.

## Doing extra

If you have passion, this becomes automatic. Ross Mathews said; "If you want to succeed at any job, make yourself invaluable. Go the extra mile; make them never be able to imagine what life without you there would be like." Going the extra mile could be putting down a



Wayne Bailey

plastic mat in a hallway of a house while doing overhaul, so not to soil the carpet. In a recent wildland fire, fire fighters took time to take down our country's flag from a pole that was hanging from the porch. They rolled it up and stored it, so it would not be burned or get dirty from the smoke. When the home owner came home after the evacuation was over, she wrote a Facebook post to a local new station. It got 259k likes, almost 100 000 shares and over 8 000 comments. That's a great example of 'Doing extra'.

## Being coachable

I was playing golf with my boss one sunny day. I was having a hard time hitting the ball straight. He said move your body this way and keep your chin up. Afterwards, we were talking about the game and he said that I was coachable, meaning I would take his instruction and use it to better myself.

John Wooden, a famous basketball coach in the USA said, "A coach is someone who can give correction without causing resentment.

Who do you have in your life that is or can be your coach? I friend, mentor, officer on your engine or ladder? Whoever it is, if you ask for advice, be ready to implement the knowledge and make yourself a better parent, co-worker and friend. 🙏

**Shannon Wilson** ▶ WLOS ABC 13  
November 19 near Chimney Rock · 🌐

Hi my name is Shannon Wilson and I live in Lake Lure NC. I have been evacuated for 7 days and was finally able to come home today. When I got home I wasn't expecting to see this. These amazing firefighters who have come from all over the world saved my house from the flames. Doing so..they took my flag down and off the flag pole..rolled it up and put it in my glass door so it wouldn't get burned by the fire. I just wanted to share this act of kindness with you. It made me have goosbumps the minute I realized what they did. I thought it would be a great news piece to share with the world. Even in the toughest times WE still respect the flag and who fought for us to wave that flag. Thank you!

👍 Like   🗨 Comment   ➦ Share

👍❤️👍 259K   Top Comments ▾

95,797 shares   8.4K Comments