



The Story of David and the Shiny Cuvette

A Hero in Uniform

Specialist Fifth Class David L. Huskey · UIS 56326385

Once upon a time, there was a young man named David.
He was strong, kind, and wore a very neat U.S. Army uniform.
On his left sleeve was a special Army patch for Specialist Fifth
Class.





David had a very special job.

He worked in the part of the hospital where doctors were working
hard to fix people's hearts,

using a brand new kind of operation called open heart surgery.

David took care of the special diagnostic machines that helped the
doctors know what each heart needed.

His little workroom was called "the pit."

Some called it "the snake pit."

The Special Little Tool

Inside the hospital, David looked after many machines.

But one little piece mattered most.

It was called a Cuvette. (Can you say that? Coo-VET!)

It was a small clear cap, with a rounded little bubble in the middle and two tiny tube-like points.

It was only about as wide as a big button.





The Cuvette was very important because it measured blood pressure,
so doctors could understand the patient's heart during surgery.

This Cuvette was very special because it was the only one that was still working.

The others were worn and broken.

This Cuvette was also very special because it was needed for a surgery that was to happen that afternoon.





The Disappearing Act

That morning, Dave gave the Cuvette a bath.
He scrubbed it and rinsed it until it was clean and ready.
Then he set it on his workbench.

David needed to go to the pharmacy, which was across the hall.
He almost tripped over his garbage can, which was very full,
on the way out the door.





When David returned to his workbench, he noticed that the garbage can was empty.

He also noticed that the Cuvette was gone.

David thought to himself, "He must have bumped it into the garbage can."

The Great Chase

David looked out and saw the garbage truck rumbling away.

Oh no.

The trash man had taken the one good Cuvette by mistake.





David didn't wait a second.
He ran outside, hopped on his little Cushman scooter,
and -
VROOM!

He raced down the road,
over the bumpy railroad tracks,
following that big truck all the way to the city dump.





A Treasure in the Trash

The truck tipped over -

RUMBLE, CRASH!

Out came a mountain of garbage.

A messy pile of cans and paper and all sorts of things.

David walked right up to the messy mountain.
He reached his hand deep into the pile,
and twinkle!
There it was,
the Cuvette!





David recalled that his mind had gone quiet.

He didn't even worry.

He had just gone to where he needed to go,
as if his heart was showing him the way.

Back to the Lab

David rode his scooter back to the hospital lab with the Cuvette safe in his pocket.





He washed the Cuvette carefully.

He made it clean again.

Then he put it back where the doctors could find it.

Everything was ready.

That afternoon, the surgery was a success.
The little Cuvette did its job perfectly!

David learned that when something really matters,
your heart will show you the way.

Good night, David.
Good night, Cuvette.



A True Story

*This story is true. It really happened to a brave soldier named
David Leon Huskey.*

Special Fifth Class - US 56326385 - United States Army.

BROOKE GENERAL HOSPITAL

Fort Sam Houston, Texas



*This
Certificate of Achievement
is awarded to*

SPECIALIST FIFTH CLASS DAVID L. HUSKEY, US 56326385

Is cited in recognition of his outstanding performance of duty as Technician, Cardiac Diagnostic Laboratory, Department of Medicine, Brooke General Hospital, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, from 25 November 1961 to 18 July 1962. Specialist Huskey has distinguished himself by a level of performance that has been unparalleled in the experience of those associated with the laboratory. His conscientious devotion to duty and his loyalty have been an inspiration to all. He has utilized his talents to great advantage and has accomplished important improvements and innovations in the Cardiac Diagnostic facility. No problem has been too great for Specialist Huskey and no task too menial. His personal qualities of loyalty, honesty, integrity and appropriate ambition, blended with a sense of humor, make him an invaluable member of the team. This most distinguished performance of duty reflects great credit upon himself, Brooke General Hospital and the Army Medical Service.

Given at Brooke Army Medical Center

This 18th day of July 1962

G. M. POWELL, Brig General, M C
COMMANDING

