

The Wright Flight

*The ambitious young person labors not in vain, genius know no class, no condition.
--Dayton Daily News (June 16, 1909)*

Inspiration can come from other people, personal experiences, watching a moving or reading a good book. The Wright Brothers, by David McCullough is one of those inspirational books. I picked up the book simply to learn about the history of airplane flight. What I took away from the reading was so much more. Albert Einstein said, "Everyone is a genius; but if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid."



Wilbur and Orville Wright are American heroes and geniuses. How did two self-taught individuals on a shoestring budget become the first to fly successfully, when others directed by the Smithsonian Institute and funded by the government failed miserably? What characteristics did they embody to become the supernovas of their day? After pondering this question, I noticed four traits that the Wright Brothers encompassed.

Vision — Wilbur and Orville perceived and conceived the possibility of flight. Their vision was such, that no matter what opposition, critic, naysayer, mechanical or economic setback, they dealt with along the way they continued to pursue their vision.

Character — The Wrights epitomized integrity in everything they did. They were honest, thrifty, loyal, conscientious and appreciative.

Diligence — Orville and Wilbur were industrious and hard-working, who used their time wisely every working day. They remained passionate about their duties and did not permit distractions to deter them off course.

Experience — engineering something that has never been built, and is said to be impossible, speaks for itself. Experience is the only way to get it done. Experience takes time and energy. In the case of the Brothers, they relied on each other to grind out the work hours, enabling them to exchange ideas and share skills.

Dr. Einstein is correct in recognizing that "Everyone is a genius." I believe the ingredients that enable genius to manifest itself are set in motion by one's belief in themselves and faith in the desired outcome.

[William "Chip" Corley, MBA, RFC](#)