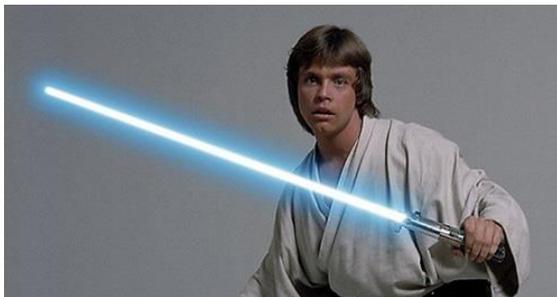


# Courage

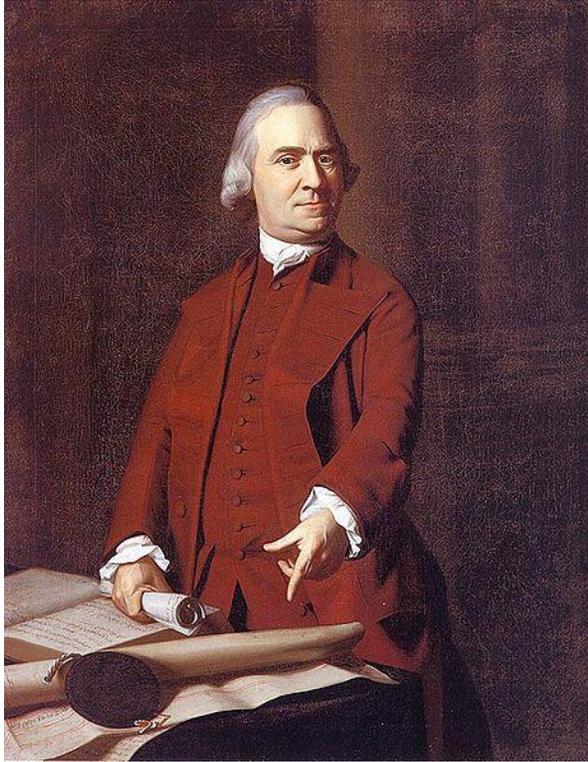
Courage, according to [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com), is the quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, pain, danger, etc., without fear. I would agree with most of this definition, but it is my personal opinion that even the courageous still feel fear. It is courage that allows people to overcome their fear. Jedi, by their very nature, are courageous people. The story of Luke Skywalker is littered with examples of how courage saved Luke Skywalker and the Alliance to Restore the Galactic Republic. But I think it is important to focus on Luke's early adventures on Tatooine because it is usually our first steps that are the hardest and most courageous.



Luke first came into prominence in the events leading up to the Battle of Yavin. Before his involvement with the Rebellion he was a moisture farmer on Tatooine where he was secretly being guarded by Obi-wan Kenobi. The story concerning Luke's early adventures is well

documented, therefore does not need to be retold here. But consider how hard it was for Luke to take those first steps with Obi-wan...those steps brought him in contact with Han Solo, Leia, Yoda and the rest. It was his courage to leave his life of moisture farming behind that allowed him to begin his mission of rebuilding the Jedi Order, and protecting democracy across the galaxy. Had Luke given into fear, had he not displayed courage when the chance to leave Tatooine arose it is likely that the Sith's tyrannical rule would have continued. Consider it...had Luke not displayed Courage Leia would have been executed, Jabba would have tracked down Han Solo, the Death Star would have wreaked havoc across the galaxy, destroying any planet that didn't obediently comply and Emperor Palpatine would still be in charge!

Courage is an American value. Just like in Star Wars, examples of Courage can be seen throughout American History. Similar to Luke's initial involvement with the Rebellion, Samuel Adams was an American Patriot whose greatest act of Courage was simply beginning.



Samuel Adams was a politician in Massachusetts in the mid-1700s. He was first elected as a tax collector. He wasn't very good at this because he saw many of the taxes that the British Government collected as abusing the colonies. Samuel Adams became popular with many people throughout Boston.

Samuel Adams showed his courage in 1765 when he organized protest against the Stamp Act. The Stamp Act was a tax forced onto the colonists that was collected when they purchased any form of printed material- Books, newspapers, pamphlets, and yes...stamps. In a time

where speaking out against the King would certainly bring you ruin or even death, Samuel Adams began to speak out publically against the Stamp Act, which he considered illegal. Had Samuel Adams not been the voice arguing against Britain in 1765 the Colonist would have been taxed far longer...and perhaps far more expensively than they were.

Sadly, the Stamp Act was not the end of unfair taxation in the Colonies. The Townshend Acts, the Tea Act, and the Intolerable Acts were all passed between 1766 and 1776. Samuel Adams led the fight against all these acts, embodying courage throughout this tumultuous period. He was an early leader of the Sons of Liberty, the organization who infamously led The Boston Tea Party, and later a member of the Continental Congress that drafted and signed the Declaration of Independence.