

It is impossible to stand here now and summarize all aspects of my grandpa's life in one little speech. He was such a great man full of love, kindness, and wisdom.

I have spent a great deal of time with my grandparents and each day with them is like another lesson in life that they were eager to teach. Grandchildren have a special vantage point. By the time we meet our Grandparents they have made most of their mistakes and learned most of their lessons. Grandpa was always so happy when a moment came that him and I were able to talk. When Grandma, Grandpa, and I would take a casino trip we would always sneak away from Grandma for a while to chat and he would teach me about his life. He was always so quiet at first but once I got him going I bet he could go on forever, however he would always stop when he came to a point in his story that reminded him of Grandma and he would wonder where she was. I don't think the two of them could stand to be separated for more than a few minutes before their conversations went right back to talking about each other. I don't know anyone who loves each other more than the two of them. The three of us would stay up late talking when we went on trips and listening to the two of them giggling and carrying on all night would only make me smile. Their love was like watching a cute old love movie. They adored each other more than anything else in the world and I know he is still with her now because I don't think he could leave her side for that long. We would always talk about where we were going to travel someday. Grandma and I both knew that it sadly would never happen, but listening to Grandpa excited to see his old town and hearing stories about how he grew up made it worthwhile. He was always one to tell a good story. From stealing coal from the coal mine to swimming in the septic swimming hole there was never a dull story. My favorite story will always be the time Grandpa asked Grandma out on a date and even after the simple response "I reckon" they hit it off and were married for fifty three wonderful years. Grandpa was also a member of the United States Navy. He served on the U.S.S. Davison and the U.S.S. Collett. He was a "Tin Can Sailor." He never really went into details about any battles or fighting, but lots of times he told me about how he could hardly swim but because they needed men he passed the test doing the doggie paddle across the pool. Grandpa was a great teacher to have, not just within our family, but to

everyone. He was selfless and kind and he loved being a parent and a grandfather. It was his calling in life.

Family was the most important thing to Grandpa. In the countless stories of his siblings and him growing up he never had anything but positive things to say about them. And his wife and children and grandchildren seemed to be the center of his world. When my mom and aunt were growing up they went on a countless number of vacations with their family and they each had tons of stories from them. Every one of them was a positive experience and most involved some crazy idea grandpa had or something that him and grandma did. Every holiday when all the family came he seemed to light up because everyone was there and not in a rush to get anywhere else. He was always smiling and making jokes and he never went a Christmas without his Snoopy socks. I think he did that for the attention just so we would joke with him about it. I don't think he cared much about the presents because he seemed to spend more time watching us than he did trying to open presents. His family was his biggest pride and he loved spending time with them.

I am proud to say when it comes to my grandfather I have no regrets about the time that we spent together. We got to know each other very well and he enriched my life with his love, generosity, and wit. The presence of him in my life helped shape me into the person I am today. I owe it to him to be successful and happy and to live as dignified as he did.

Grandpa, I will always miss you. I am thankful I have so many wonderful memories to hang on to. You were an excellent role model and a great friend. Your guidance and love will carry me through to the end of my days. I love you so much Grandpa.