

Lauren Silpoch

This is a very important and emotional subject for me to talk and write about because of the things we used to do together and how close he and I were. We shared a passion for golf, and he loved showing me how far along his plants were in the garden. We always sat next to each other at dinner and shared some pretty funny moments when we were together.

Once my great grandpa died, I started to realize how much he truly impacted my life. He died two days after my 14th birthday and it really put my life into perspective. He was one of the most important people in my life and what he did to impact me truly changed who I am.

His passing changed me. He used to take really long naps and since he passed it feels like he is taking one really long nap, and that I will just go in and wake him up like I always did when I came over. He went to all my dance recitals and backstage, you could hear him whistling before I would go on. I never got to hear his whistle for the next recital, but I just pictured him in the crowd waving at me.

On my birthday, I went to see him and he seemed just fine and was able to talk to me. Suddenly, two days later he was suffering. I saw him hooked up to all of the tubes and unable to speak. All I could do was squeeze his hand and he would make a little noise because he knew it was me. I couldn't even look at him without crying.

A few hours later, the doctors came in the room to go fix his tube. Once they took it out you could hear "code blue" going off in the hospital.

Watching all of the nurses and doctors come into the room was insane. I have never seen that many nurses and doctors in a



room before and I knew right then that he wasn't going to make it. That's when my life was put into perspective. You truly have to cherish the moments you have with others and never take things for granted because you never know what could happen. I never would've thought I would see the day where my great grandpa died, and it all happened within 48 hours.

Even though he died, I had the biggest support system I could ever imagine. My whole family was there for me because they knew I was struggling and I knew that they were struggling. We all knew that things were going to change in the end, even if they weren't for the better.

We wouldn't be able to leave the driveway without him standing at the end of it waving and whistling, we wouldn't be able to hear his "get up you fat slob" when he got up out of his chair, and I wouldn't be able to ever go look at his plants and him explaining the process of how they grow. But he isn't suffering any longer, and he is always looking down on us from the greatest seat in the house.

