

Personal Hero

By Masin Kettner

A hero to me is not Superman or Batman, but a true hero to me is Robert "Bob" Schultz. A hero to me is someone you can trust, someone who is always there for you, and someone who loves unconditionally. And that person for me is my grandpa.

Growing up he had a pretty great childhood. He spent all of his summers on the farm with the animals. His favorite being a cow named Curly, which used to follow him around wherever he went on the farm. When they went out in the pasture, he would push Curly against the fence, climb the fence, hop on Curly's back and ride him home. Once he turned about the age of 12, he started to work on the farm for fourteen hours every day in the summer.

One reason he is my hero is he joined the Air Force. Bob enlisted in the Air Force before he was 19; the reason being is that once he turned 19, he would have been drafted into the Army. However, he did not want to be in the Army so he chose to enlist into the Air Force before he could be drafted. The only difference was that if he was drafted, he would only have been in the Army for 2 years, whereas the Air Force commitment was 4 years. Bob loved the Air Force, he even said that if he was to choose again, that he would still choose the Air Force. The only thing he would choose to do differently is that he would enlist into the Air Force earlier, and make it his long term career.

Being in the Air Force gave him a lot of different experiences than he would have had normally, for example, travel. While he was in the Air Force he spent some time in Gulfport, Mississippi. He was exposed to more racism being in the South. There were still colored and white restrooms. Black people were not allowed on the streets after 10:00 at

night and a lot of restaurants did not allow black people to buy things. One of his memories about this was one night when he and a couple of his friends were in a bar, a group of black men and one white woman came in. The owner said that they were not welcomed there, but the woman that was with them said that by law the owner had to serve them. The owner said that she would allow them one drink. After the men and woman had left, the owner took their glasses and smashed them in the corner, because to her the glasses would be forever dirty. My grandpa didn't agree with the way the black people were treated, but that is just how it was then.

Some of the most exciting moments of his life have been when he got married to Yvonne Schultz in 1960, and also when their four children were born- Shari, Lori, Scott, and Connie. Along with children came some stories. Like grabbing the garbage instead of his lunch the day his oldest daughter Shari was born, or when his son slammed his youngest daughter's finger in the door and cut it off. One of the most prominent memories that went along with the kids was when the kids grew older they would play with jacks during the day, and then Bob would come along later in the middle of the night and step on the jacks! Oh, how he would yell from the pain that even the kids remember that story because it happened so much.

In his life, my grandpa has done many great things. Through my years growing up with him, he has been an inspiration to me. I will remember the stories he tells and the things he has done and share them with friends and family forever. I will forever cherish the great moments I've had with him and I will never forget him. As he continues his journey through life, he continues to change lives. To me true heroes can't fly, don't turn green and become a muscle man, or have super strength. Heroes are ordinary people doing extraordinary things and changing lives. In my heart, he will always be my hero.