Personal Writing by Matyson Kleinschmidt

“Good stuff Maynerd!” “You wanna go to the moon!?” These are both quotes that I can always count on hearing when I’m around my Grandpa Jim. There are a many things I love about my grandpa, but the most important ones to me are the love he shows his family and friends, his support, and how strong he is after everything that he has gone through. He has influenced my life in a very positive way and I’m not sure where I would be without this important man in my life.

My grandpa’s family is huge. He is the father of my mom and had five kids with his wife Patricia. Family means everything to my grandpa and I know that he would do anything for us. Luckily my grandpa lives in Shickley so I see him a lot more than most grandkids see their grandparents. He cares so much for his family, he would do anything for us. In the summer I see him every day when he comes into the café for lunch. I can always hear his laugh and whenever I look at him he’s always smiling. Seeing this makes me want to be just like him.

The support that my grandpa shows for all 13 of his grandkids is unbelievable. He comes to as many games as he possibly can of everybody’s. If he misses it he always calls to see how we did and he reads the paper after every sports activity. My Grandpa Jim goes to Texas every winter because he doesn’t like the cold. You are probably thinking “how can he watch the games if he’s in Texas?” He watches all of us on Strive TV, a way to watch games on the internet. If he’s gone that night then he gets online and reads the Journal Star or the Tribune. No matter where or what grandpa is doing, he is somehow trying to watch us participate in whatever we do.

The amount of things that my grandpa has been through in unreal. He was in the war. He lost his wife to a heart attack when they moved to Shickley. She died with him in the ambulance on the way to the hospital. He got a job at the elevator in Sedan and worked there for a really long time. But one day, something terrible happened. He was attempting to put two train carts together when something slipped and his arm got caught between them. Because this happened, he lost his right hand which is why he now has a fake hand today. His right hand was also his dominant hand. Resulting in the loss of his hand, he had to learn how to do everything left handed. Grandpa doing this shows me that he doesn’t give up not matter what the situation is. He has also lost 3 very close family members in a short amount of time; his mom, his brother, and his brother-in-law. I also had to go through this but I wasn’t as close to them as my grandpa was. He stayed as strong as he could through it all because he knows that they are in such a better place now.

I always know that whenever I’m struggling with something I can always go to grandpa for help. I’ve always known him as being one of the most positive, loving, funny and caring guys I know, and that will never change. His love for his family and friends, his support, and everything my grandpa has been through really shows how good of a person he is. He’s my favorite person in the whole world and he always will be.