

I was driving on I-95 when I got the call my grandfather passed. With still about 40 minutes left in my commute I used that time the only way I knew how, to reflect, to process, to pray, and to plan.

What to do now? After this drive? After today? After the services? What is there to do when struck with so much grief. Where am I and his family and friends to put all the love they hold for him?

Well, as most of you know, 22 year olds are known for their maturity and their decision making skills. With this known fact, I thought the only logically and non impulsive choice was to get a tattoo for him. Immediately. To memorialise him. To try and keep him with me forever. Because that's totally what he would have wanted.

But as i drove I thought

How do you summarise a life? How you do a memorialise 81 years well and truly lived?

How do I capture the dedication of his trade, the strength of his marriage, the vibrance of his children and grandchildren. How do you capture his quiet but consistent presence that never failed to make you feel secure and safe? Or the the compassion and pride he instilled when he shook your hand or called you kid affectionately, or the perfect timing of his wit and the depth of his knowledge. Such a life well spent, well loved, 59 years of marriage to the love of his life and the light of his soul, 2 children, 5 grandchildren, countless trips, miles spent and memories grown?

Words continuous fall flat, and never seem to sufficient to express the type of man my grandfather was. The best I could find was that He was Sui generis - Latin, meaning one of a kind in a way that makes language feel small. Unique. In a class of his own.

Well I decided a tattoo wasn't permanent enough for me. To my grandmothers relief, stead of ink, I will act in my grandfathers memory, and I invite you all to do the same. It's really quite simple:

Love passionately, speak softly but sincerely, dedicate time with patience and grace, and support those you love through resilient action and you may find little need for words.

Embrace what you love, even if others can't understand the beauty of adding peanut butter to everything. Create time for your passions, whether that be practicing guitar, tinkering with trains, or boating on the coast.

And most importantly, treat those you care for most with other centeredness. Oh, and Don't hesitate to hum a tune even - if you hum out of key.