

Everywhere great people have been, they leave one thing: footprints. Footprints mark the places where they have failed, where they have triumphed, and every footprint is different. As time goes on, however, our footprints wash away. Few prints ever stay, but a few do remain forever. Their mark is made and cannot be forgotten. My dad is my hero because he has made many footprints that have imprinted on the lives of his students and on me. My Michigan hero, my dad, persevered for those who needed him and left millions of footprints along the way.

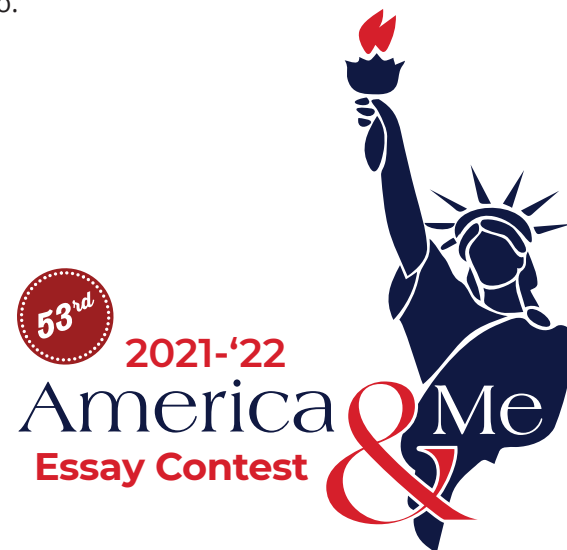
My dad, a teacher, helped many students during Covid-19 who were struggling with their studies in class. He set up individually based online meetings to benefit students who were unable to make it to class. He even worked well into summer helping students who had a hard time catching up from missed time in class. It was not always easy for my dad, having to help some students online and in person at the same time, but watching him persevere motivated me to do the same.

While my dad worked through Covid to help so many students, he always worked just as hard before the pandemic. There were many times when I was struggling, and he told me, "No student should be afraid of their teacher. How can they learn without a relationship?" This taught me two things: one, that I must strive to have a relationship with every teacher instead of just being nervous or afraid to ask for help, and two, I could see just how much my dad cared about his students and that he never wanted any of them to be afraid to ask him questions. I was able to still ask meaningful questions that benefitted my learning during Covid.

Even though my dad taught much older kids every day and had lots of responsibilities, he always has time for me. He showed me how to communicate and email my teachers so that I would be understood and receive the answer I required. He always worked to have a trustworthy place in my life and he used many of the things he knew about other students to help me. One time, he

told me, "When a student just asks, 'Is this good enough?' every teacher should be disappointed because when they answer they are just doing it for the teacher." He taught me that day how important it is to understand what I am doing and work my hardest. My dad works every day to help me be the best person I can be.

My dad persevered even during the toughest times for every one of his students and for me. He teaches me about having a relationship with others, and how important it is to try my best all the time. I may never fully be what my dad is, but I will try to leave my footprints just as he did. My Michigan hero will be remembered for persevering for all who needed him, and from not one footprint, but millions he has left every time he helps those who need it. For every footprint he left and everything he has done for me, my dad is my true Michigan hero.



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