



MY PERSONAL MICHIGAN HERO

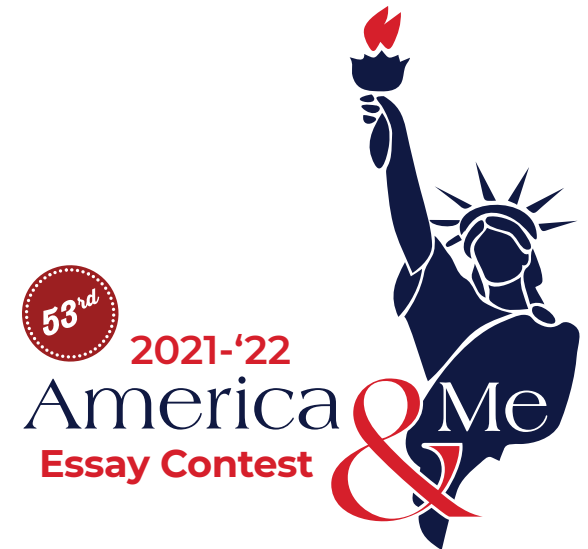
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Most of the world's heroes are the ones that no one has heard about. The ones that people might glance over every day, mistaking them for yet another person living a normal life. Most of the world heroes do the little things that build up to the big things. My mom is one of the heroes. During the heart of the pandemic, my mom was my hero because she kept me on track academically and pushed me to stay healthy and fit.

As a normal 12 year-old, my first thought about hybrid learning was fairly typical. Boy, I'm going to have so much free time. Oh no, I was sorely mistaken. My mom would have none of that; there would be no slacking in our house...pandemic or not! My mom pushed me to strive to my greatest potential. Every morning, she would prepare me for my day. She would wake me up and get me started on my school work. Was there anything I had to catch up on? "Get started, Will." I have a test in two days. "Start studying, Will." I need my mom to edit this essay. "Will, are they farmers of the Constitution or framers of the Constitution?" Her attention helped me improve my habits. I became more responsible, more organized, and more prepared for the daily work that was assigned. I began to independently push myself more because my mom pushed me in the first place.

Slacking when it came to physical fitness was also frowned upon during the pandemic. My mom was a drill sergeant about staying active, and the pandemic was no excuse to give up. If anything, it was more important now than ever. I continued my physical therapy workouts; doing them virtually was much less enjoyable, but important. I rode my bike a lot with friends, walked my dog Abe, and participated in sports at my school with masks and testing protocols. No matter the weather, my mom had me doing something. My mom encouraged staying active. This made me meet a lot of new friends and develop some really great skills. I appreciate her encouragement because it made navigating through the pandemic a lot easier and less lonely.

Did my mom change the world and save a bunch of people? No, but she kept my world as normal as possible during my first and, hopefully, last pandemic of my lifetime. The great things that I achieved this year would not be possible without my mom. My mom pushed me to strive to my max. She is my personal Michigan hero, and I love her very much.



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