

## *A True Hero*

When people think of a hero, they think of people like Superman, Spiderman, or Batman. A hero is not just someone who saves people, but who is intelligent, talented, kind, thinks of others, and more. My Grandpa had all of those characteristics. I definitely think of my Grandpa as a true hero. He is one of the kindest, smartest, and most talented people I've ever known.

When my Grandpa went to college, he went to USC. USC is one of the hardest schools to get into. You have to be very smart or very talented in athletics. My Grandpa was both of those things, which explains why he went there. Another example that shows my Grandpa is a very smart and talented man is that he helped design the rocket ship for the Apollo 13, one of the most famous and important space missions in history.

My Grandpa was also very athletic. In 1946, he received a note from Mickey McConnell, the Promotion Director for the Brooklyn Dodgers, asking him to join the team and play for the Brooklyn National League Baseball Club. He chose not to take them up on their offer because, in those days, professional ball players did not get paid very much. Another sport my Grandpa played was golf. He was always an excellent golfer. He was the one who taught me how to do it. He worked with me and taught me how to golf more proficiently every time I visited him. My Grandpa golfed every week until the beginning of February. That was when he got pneumonia. For those of you who think heroes have to be fighters, then my Grandpa is a hero from your point of view, too. For years and years of pain, my Grandpa fought emphysema, lung cancer, and for the last 4 years, diabetes. On top of that he battled pneumonia and a staph infection in his chest. However, no hero can fight forever. On February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009, he died accepting Christ and went to heaven. He lived a great life and is living an even better life with God right now. He was my Grandpa, my idol, and my true hero.

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