



MY PERSONAL MICHIGAN HERO

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Funny, kind, musically talented and, most of all, crazy, are just a few words to describe my hero, my Papa Wayne. Ever since I was a baby, I have spent a lot of time with my papa. Through the years, he has always been a big part of my life. I can count on him for anything. Ever since I can remember, he has always made me feel loved, encouraged me, and he has been my biggest cheerleader. My papa once told me that I should never say goodbye, because goodbyes are forever. Instead, he told me to say, "See you later." After that moment, I never said goodbye. I learned that we need to cherish the moments we have with people because they won't be with us forever.

The best times spent with him are when we are playing music. As a little girl, I grew up around music. I would always sing, play the ukulele, or dance along to the songs he sang. I loved it. Because who wouldn't like to grow up around music? One day, over the summer, I was at his house and we went up to his music room to play music. I could see the passion and enjoyment he had for music and knew I wanted that, too. I was only six when I told him I wanted to play the violin. He told me that I could definitely play, and he ordered the instrument for me the next day.

About a week later, I was in my house when I heard an abrupt knock at the door. I came to the door and peeked through the shiny glass window. The person at the door was my papa! I let him in and noticed something in his hand. I was very curious as to what it was. He told me that it was for me. So, I opened it. I was shocked to see that it was a violin! He told me that it was officially mine! To say that I was happy was an understatement, because I was extremely excited. From then on, I have been

taking lessons. He took lessons, too, so we would always go to class together. Ever since this life changing experience, I have continued to take lessons and play music with my papa. He is 76 years old and still fiddling his heart away. I hope to continue to cherish the moments like these with my hero, whom I call Papa Wayne.



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