

Honorable Mention

My Aunt Named Perseverance

by
Kyle Rodhe

The American Heritage School Dictionary defines perseverance as, "*The act or quality of holding to a course, belief, purpose, without giving way, to be steadfast.*" As I think about my life and the people in it one person sticks out in mind, my Aunt Ronnie she battled Lou Gehrig's disease for many months. This horrible disease cause deterioration of the muscles. Even though this ailment plagued her everyday, she never let it stop her. I believe that is why perseverance is my *law of life*.

In the first days of my aunt's illness she made sure that it did not restrict her everyday activities. She went to work at the Solon Middle School and served the children, one of her many joys. She would return home with a smile on her face that could make a sad face clown rejoice. She played with the dog, Duchess, until she was completely drained. Even then, she gathered enough energy to serve the people she loved and cared for.

When my family went to visit her she welcomed us with open arms. Through the months however, she began to show a weakness that she didn't want anybody to see. She was losing control. She had persevered this far and was not about to give up now. She started to not be able to do simple tasks such as picking up a pop can because she couldn't control her arms.

She finally lost the battle against the beast. On a cool day in August, my aunt left us forever. Even though she's gone, she still inspires me everyday. She teaches me to never quit and to work hard to receive what I want. I dedicate anything I've ever achieved to my aunt because of the way she taught me to work for my goals. She persevered.

My aunt lost a battle with a demon she couldn't compare to. But I go face to face with evils everyday that I can conquer. I have goals, wants, and dreams that I can attain because of the virtues I was taught. I will go on to succeed if I continually exemplify my aunt. *Calvin Coolidge* once said, "*No person was ever honored for what he received Honor has been the reward for what he gave.*" This speaks about my aunt. The one who persevered.