

My grandfather battled the last few years of his life, with all he could muster. He tried to be strong for my grandma, the rest of the family, and he made sure that we all knew just how much we meant to him before he couldn't remember anymore. You see, my grandfather suffered and passed away from Alzheimer's when he was only 64 years old. He also suffered from Dementia. The days were long, hard, and stressful for the family. We supported each other, we cried together, we smiled together (when he would remember things), and we prayed together.

This heartbreaking time in my life is why I have chosen to pursue my doctorate degree. With the 7 stages of Alzheimers and the wide array of symptoms that they battle with everyday, I want to make a difference. I want to know and understand the inner workings of Alzheimers and Dementia. I want to figure out why it happens, if there is a better way to slow it down, maybe even stop it from progressing, one day. It was hard for me to see the confusion and the heartache in my grandfather's eyes when he couldn't remember something. The tears that it caused my family when he didn't remember us and wanted us to leave him alone.

These diseases can last a little while or they can last someone most of their lifetime. I am dedicated to finding ways to make it easier to deal with. I want to make sure the disease is not the focus of the patient's life. I don't want other families to go through everything that we went through. Slowly seeing the progression, the memory loss getting worse, the anger, and the depression. I want to take on the huge challenge of changing what these patients and their families go through. I want to find ways to make the struggle, less of a struggle.

Dedication, commitment, and my dream are the things that are going to get me where I want to be in this life. From the moment my life changed, with my grandfather's passing, I have studied these 2 terrible diseases. It has been my mission, my calling if you will, to impact people's lives in 8, 10,15, even 30 years from now. I want to alter their lives by making these types of situations and diseases few and far between. I know, in the future, there will be ways to intercept medical diagnosis of this nature and many others. I want to be a part of that future. I want to be a huge part of those discoveries, the changes, and the cures.

I am willing to take on the mounds of work, research, and late nights to get the degree that I need to benefit my future along with millions of other people's. I am prepared to accept the task of reaching for my stars, believing in my dream, and working harder than I have ever worked in my entire life to make the world better for the next generation. Whether it is Alzheimers, Dementia, or Traumatic Brain Injuries; I want to be the person who has dedicated his life to helping find more concrete answers about these conditions. I dream of having a hand in the middle of a possible cure for such diseases that rob a person of who they are, what they were, and where they came from.

My ultimate goal, starting the day I lost my grandfather, has and always will be to make the biggest impact that I can on the medical industry. To be one of the best doctor's out there, working to discontinue the pain and suffering of our society. Working to find more efficient medications, therapies, and mental health resources than there are today. I believe that this facility and the medical programs that it offers, will get me to my dream.

