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Admirable Person: Mema

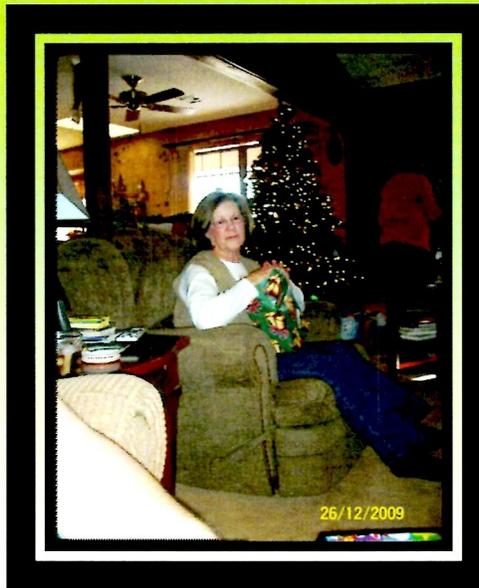
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Admirable Person

Mema

By Jaci Alford

As I begin my journey into adulthood, I look to adults in my life for guidance to help me choose my path. My most admirable person is my grandmother, whom I call Mema. She has always given me advice, love, and support. She demonstrated selfless love to my grandfather, was a partner to him during their thirty-nine years of marriage, supports her community, and is the solid rock in our family. She is a guiding force in my life.

My grandmother helped my grandfather throughout their marriage and gave to him tirelessly. When my grandfather found out he had cancer my grandmother was by his side. Mema drove him back and forth to Oklahoma City for chemotherapy and cared for him during several surgeries. When they found out his cancer was terminal, she was the strong force in our family. She worked with us to spend time with him and do things he had always wanted to do. Mema ran her embroidery business and was the sole proprietor throughout his battle with cancer also. Mema always put his needs before her own, and her health faltered soon after he passed away. A year after my grandfather's death, my grandmother had to begin walking with a cane because of back trouble.

My grandmother was not raised on a farm, but learned farming when she married my grandfather. Mema had to learn to ride and care of horses, drive a tractor, and work beside my grandfather during their marriage. No job was ever too dirty or too difficult for her, whether it was digging Bermuda grass sprigs, working cattle, taking care of animals in the barn, cleaning stalls, or working in the alfalfa field. Mema and my grandfather also had a feed business. Mema was his partner, secretary, and worked like a hired hand during their many years together. Mema is still taking care of the farm and horses that my grandfather left behind.

Mema is involved in community service by working in her local church. Mema has always been involved in her small community church and has served in many capacities. Currently my grandmother is the secretary, treasurer, janitor, and the pianist at Strong City Baptist Church. When the church's pianist left the church, Mema enrolled in piano lessons. Mema had learned to play the piano as a child; however, she was not comfortable playing in front of people. She has currently been playing the piano at the church for seventeen years and continues to practice for every Sunday service. Mema has always been a Sunday school teacher, whether in church or at home. She fills in at church now for any Sunday school teacher unable to be there. Mema checks on her elderly friends around Strong City and Cheyenne and visits often. She will usually take one of the grand kids and a home cooked meal to visit someone in the community.

My grandmother is the rock to our family. Mema always encourages anyone in the family to do our best and live a Christian life. You can always go to her to talk about anything, and she will always give the best advice. At the age of seventy-three, she continues to work in her embroidery business. Mema supports every one of her grand kids in their many endeavors. She goes to basketball games, baseball games, dance recitals, pep rallies, rodeos, and 4-H events. When a grandchild shows up at Mema's house, she always will cook a meal and talk to them about anything, putting her personal problems aside.

My grandmother is the most admirable person I know because demonstrated selfless love to my grandfather, supports her community, and is the solid rock in our family. Mema will always be someone I look to for guidance and someone I can talk to when I need sound advice. She is everything a admirable person should be and more. She has taught me so much throughout my life and will continue to teach me through my adulthood. Mema is a guiding force in my life.