



DON'T WAIT

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Don't wait. The first time I heard these words from someone other than my dad was at my dad's funeral. It was overwhelming. People I didn't know were there, but they knew my dad somehow. When the pastor said, "don't wait," I thought about my dad always doing something. When I found out my dad died, I felt shocked, I couldn't believe that happened, I was upset and angry. I had lost my Michigan hero, my dad, Troy Moran.

Don't wait. My dad didn't wait for us to have experiences. Either he was teaching my sister and me life lessons or giving us experiences like going fishing in Florida and catching a shark that was almost six feet long or flying across the country to see Disneyland or going to the Lakers game on Christmas Day because when my dad was younger that was his childhood dream. The joy that the shark left with my dad was so cool. As my uncle Todd and my dad let the shark go, they high-fived each other and you could tell that they were filled with joy.

Don't wait. My dad didn't wait to create memories with me. My dad always invited me to anything he would have to do for work or things he wanted to do for fun. He was either cheering me on at my sporting events or always finding a way to support me. My dad knew that life was short so he was always taking the family places and bringing us together to see things and do stuff. Some of my favorite memories are of us going to see my aunt in California, getting our puppy Finn, and jumping off the black rocks in Lake Superior two years in a row with my aunt, uncle, and grandparents. Every year, my dad encouraged me to jump off the highest point which is 24 feet. This year I jumped off it. I realized that life is short, and my dad would have wanted me to do it.

Don't wait. My dad didn't wait to teach me lessons and one of the biggest ones was to be a better person. Being a better person could mean you are nice to others or you are sweet. In my eyes, when I think of being a better person, I think finding the good in people.

My dad never thought bad about others; he always cheered on his students or his staff making them feel seen and heard.

Don't wait. On April 27, 2024, I was told that my best friend was no longer with us. While I felt so much love and support at the funeral, I am sad that I can't talk to my dad anymore or see him face to face. Today, I'm proud and thankful that I can live my life knowing that my dad didn't wait to be my Michigan hero.

