

Grandfather Never Complained

This man was always humble and giving, it is my grandfather. He is the son of parents who traveled from Slovakia to the United States to provide better for their family. He is one of a family of eight children. Growing up, his parents did not speak much English. English was only spoken at school or with friends. In the mornings, my grandfather would wake up early and pull coke out of the coke ovens with his father. Each miner only got paid for the amount he produced, so all of the boys in the family were to contribute to the family income. My grandfather would then go to the local Byzantine Catholic Church and serve mass as an altar server then continue onto school. After school, he would return to the coke ovens and remove more coke from the ovens before heading home for the day for dinner.

Once my grandfather was old enough, he joined the United States Army and served in World War II. After his service, he went to Chicago to work for Ford Motor Company and Dodge. After that, he returned to the Uniontown area and became a coal miner. His job was not for the weak and required grueling hours and strain on the body. He retired out of the coal mines at age 67. He never complained about the life he lived and lived until the age of 94, passing away December 27, 2010.