I am Dornsife Contest Essay

I live my life with a series of high expectations for myself. If I do not succeed to my personal standards, I see it not as a negative but as a learning experience. Early in life, my family and teachers labeled me precocious and wise beyond my years. Serious by nature, I tended to choose the challenge rather than the easy path. I hope that as I hold this personal “above and beyond” philosophy close to my heart, I will continue to make a difference.

I believe that everything happens for a reason. The inception of my tutorial company came as a result of community service. Thus, I did not enter the market initially with intent to make a profit; however, the relationships built led me to my internship at UBS and the development of the Calabasascandy.com website. My experiences in both those endeavors taught me a lot about the financial world; however, it was just the beginning of my journey as I still have much to learn.

The meaning behind the entry was to demonstrate the impact my grandfather had on my life. The paper illustrates my motivation to want to continue the family Trojan Legacy and why attending USC was the quintessential match for me.
To whom this may concern,

This essay is dedicated in the loving memory of my grandpa, Martin Lawrence Epstein. While my time with “papa” was short, I will never forget all that he accomplished and the influence he has had on my life. A self-made entrepreneur, Martin was the strongest male role model my family has had in the last century. Martin will always be remembered for his business enterprise, high sense of moral, and emphasis on family values. I aspire to maintain my 3.85 GPA, so that I can live up to his reputation, continue the greatness that is the family Trojan Legacy, and follow in his footsteps as a role model for the community.

I am a Trojan at heart; it runs through my blood. My inspiration to attend USC came from my grandfather. At family gatherings I am always hearing stories of the similar characteristics between Martin and myself. According to my mother, we both share an innate drive to continuously strive for excellence. Upon graduating from the USC School of Pharmacy with his B.S. in 1954, Martin established the family pharmacy at 6360 Wilshire Blvd. To this date, the pharmacy still exists. Grandpa not only fulfilled his obligations as a pharmacist, but also took control of the management and business operations for over 30 years. “Papa” built a name for himself and the family. He took much pride in his work, bringing him financial stability; however, his personality still encouraged the family to behave frugally. This is similar to myself in many respects. My dream is to continue my education to attain my MBA, so that I too can create businesses of my own. I can think of nothing better to honor his name than to continue on the Trojan Legacy and create family enterprises of my very own.

Furthermore, grandpa was assertive. Much like myself, he would not take no for an answer. When something was on his mind he would not stop until it was accomplished. When my older brother Ross was four, he went with “papa” to Toys “R” Us the day before Christmas. On display they had a miniature bat-mobile and a five-foot teddy bear, which the salesman had explicitly explained was not for sale. Unbeknünst to my mom as to how much he paid or how he transported the items, the next morning my brother woke up with both items. I myself share this trait. While I was not accepted to Dornsife as a freshman at USC, I would not take no for an answer and continued to reapply as a transfer. I knew deep down in my heart that this was the right school for me. I was not ready to give up on my dream. A lesson from grandpa, I will never forget and hold dear to my heart.

Unfortunately, Martin passed away from lung cancer. Many of the community service projects I have established and or participated in have been geared towards helping that cause. If “papa” were still around, things in my life would be very different. He was a very strong and influential person who I loved deeply. Martin has helped transform me into the man I am today by setting a precedent for excellence and family values.

How did I exemplify Dornsife pride? Let’s just say that without the guidance and leadership of Martin, I would not truly appreciate all that it entails, means, and requires to live up to the Trojan standard. It is pertinent that I continue in his footsteps, so that one-day my children will be able to do the same and carry forth the family Trojan Legacy.