

My Great Grandmother, Kathleen Molezzo

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Times have really changed since May 24th, 1927, which is the day my Great Grandmother, Kathleen Molezzo was born. My great grandmother is now 84 years old, is very important to me. Like most grandmas, she loves to spoil her grandchildren. My sister and I are very lucky because we are her only 2 great grandchildren. I've been able to have my grandma Kathleen pretty much all to myself (sharing with my sister), all my growing up life. Because of that, I've had many fun memories and talks with her, that I will be able to hold in my heart forever.



Grandma Kathleen sadly to say, had to live through the years of The Great Depression. Due to the lack of money, having nothing, moving a lot, farming, she later in life appreciated things so much more than I believe most kids and teens do today. As a child growing up, she had to work hard labor in fields doing farming work, to help her family. School wasn't at all top priority, if there was school. She tells me all the time to work very hard in school and to follow all my dreams, something she never had the chance to do in her life. Education is something she tells me to appreciate and get all I can.

As a child, growing up grandma Kathleen didn't have much, so when she was to get even a pair of shoes, already used by someone else, she was very thankful and appreciated them. Then she would want to keep them and never get rid of them. Today, I feel there is so much lack in the appreciation department in kids, teens and even adults. Most kids, or teens today wouldn't accept a used pair of shoes, shirt or pants from anyone, they want the newest and latest trend item, that cost anywhere from \$40-\$200. With appreciation of things come respect, something grandma Kathleen says is less and less of every day. I see what she means, respect today, is very much lacking in all ages.

As my grandmother got older, she did get married, had 2 children, and lived on a ranch. Her husband Joe was a farmer. So she still continued to do hard labor work while caring for her 2 boys. She would cook lots of beans, rice, fried potatoes, fried chicken and fried okra. My mom doesn't do a lot of the fried foods in our home, but beans and rice we eat often too. If my grandmother wanted to give her boys a snack of any kind, it was made or prepared or came from her garden. Today we have so much convenience in junk food it's crazy and very unhealthy.

Later, my grandma Kathleen became a telephone operator, for Pacific Bell, which later changed to ATT. I'm not sure if kids today even know who or what is a telephone operator. Technology is so far advanced that the need for operators are almost obsolete. In fact, now days, we always get a recording and we have to push buttons on our phone to even try to talk with anyone. Even then, we usually get another recording. To call an operator for a phone number or even look in the phone book, that wouldn't happen. We would just use our cell phones or go on line now.

Grandma Kathleen had a very hard time spending the money she made at her job, on herself. She spent only what she needed on her family. The rest of the money would go into a savings. She saved and saved, in fear of not knowing if another depression would come. Today, I feel people care more about getting, buying and getting the latest things, to keep up with each other. Savings? What's that? People will go in debt today to get or buy what they think they need, just because it's what everyone else does. My grandmother was the complete opposite in all that. She not having anything made, she sees things so differently than we do today. Grandma Kathleen did start buying herself some things, but took great care of them and kept them for a very long time. She stayed at her job for 33 years and retired.

My grandmother said she never kept her doors locked, didn't even give it thought before. She can't believe how times are so different in this was as well. When her husband passed away, she not only started to lock her doors, but she even got an alarm system put in her house. Gangs? Breaking in homes? Robbing? All those things were never really issues to have to worry about. It is really sad how bad thing are today, how there is no value or respect for others and their things anymore. Gangs are rapidly multiplying daily. To gangs, there is not an ounce of care or value in or of another person's life. It bothers my grandmother to know where the world is today.

You can imagine with all the farming, hard labor work outside, there was so much land everywhere, in my grandma's days. Today there is less and less land available for farming. All you see now are houses, stores, gas stations, malls, banks, tons of fast food and dine in food, that is. The cost of our produce gets higher and higher as everything else is today. Life back in my grandma's days, were basic and simple. Today, it's very busy, crazy, far too many choices and options. I sometimes think we have too much and have taken away, what really matters in life, and traded it in, for more things. Simple must have been nice, grandma says it was.

Because of the lack of getting things as a child and teen, my grandma Kathleen has always wanted to buy and get me just about anything and everything I wanted or needed in my life. Almost always, when she bought me things, it was for my education, my future in sports, or clothes. She has put money in a savings for me, since I was born, for college. I'm very thankful for all that my grandmother has done for me. Not just the things she has bought me has been a huge blessing, but the wisdom and lessons she has taught me are far more valuable than anything money could ever buy. Grandma Kathleen is currently in a rest home in Porterville, CA, not doing very well. When it's her time to leave this world, I'm going to miss her so much. She has done more for me than she will ever truly know. Until the time comes for God to take her home to be with Him, I want to make sure I spend time with her any chance I get. Part of who I am is because of Great Grandma Kathleen Molezzo.