My Grandma Loraine Stephenson

By Alexis Sattler

I don't even know where to begin…my grandma was my safe space, my go to person and my best friend. Loraine had the smile that lit up any room. I remember every time my brothers and I would come to the Pavilions to see her, she always told us amazing stories about her growing up and she would always sing us the same song, "Sixteen kids and a mother-in-law cause I sip cider through a straw." My grandma Lori loved traveling with my grandpa Buzz, writing amazing poetry, gardening, crafting and watching the wildlife from her home on the great Manistee River. She especially loved Christmas, as exemplified by the year-round Christmas decorations in her home. Christmas was a special time for our family only because that was the time when our grandma Lori had the most beautiful smile on her face. It was the time when we got to share all the wonderful things with her and laugh and cry with her. The thing I remember and miss the most about my grandma is her "10 minute" hugs she would give to me. She would wrap her loving arms around me and that is when I felt the safest. Two days before my grandma passed, I went to see her…she pulled me in for one last hug and told me, "I'm not ready to let go so please don't pull away" Losing my grandma 2 years ago was without a doubt the hardest thing I've ever been through. Lori was the "glue stick" that kept our family together. She was my rock, my savior, and my heart. Without her, life almost seems impossible to get through but I know that everyday with everything I do, I know that my grandma Lori is looking down on me and telling me not to give up. As today is her heavenly birthday, I remember all the good moments we shared and I have now realized how short and important life is to have regrets. My grandma taught me the most amazing and heart-felt life lessons about how I shouldn't allow someone to change me and how I need to be my own person. I am grateful for loving woman that I get to call my grandma, Loraine Stephenson.