

# **Biking Helped Us Bond**

- Jake Emerick

There are many things I like to do with others. Among my favorite is to ride my bike with my grandpa. Since I was a little kid, he and I have shared many biking adventures together.

My grandpa is an amazing person. At 86 years old he biked 14 miles through a stiff headwind to get to a fishing spot over April vacation (the crazy thing is that I seemed to have a harder time biking, although I was on a one speed beach bike rental and he was on his road bike). Together we have gone to military cemeteries, visited monuments, met some very interesting people (one of them was a former Navy pilot who had encounters with several UFO's), experienced nature, and discovered some of the best ice cream places. Countless miles have rolled underneath our tires as he tried to teach me Latin or Italian terms, discussed history, and told me stories about his time in the army, or his European bike trips.

I will never forget the countless hours we spent at picnic tables eating lunch together as he told me about his childhood and explained how the court system worked in such detail that you could create an entire class on what he told me. Above my desk I keep a picture of him standing next to his road bike, dressed in full biking attire outside of Salem Harbor, after we had spent a day lost in Salem looking for the Pirate Museum and a specific restaurant that we were determined to find.

My grandpa is a very special person to me. We have very similar interests so we can have conversations very easily, and he is always answering my questions. I like to hear all of his stories and he likes to tell them to me. Biking is our binding force, the glue that brings us together. Through our mutual love of biking I have been fortunate enough to learn about an earlier generation and have learned a lot about a person who is very special to me. We all have something that helps us form relationships, and in my life biking has been a huge part of my relationship with my grandfather. Now that we have moved to a new state there are new adventures awaiting us.