

Character Counts: My Grandpa

George Joseph Kunnel was an amazing citizen and my hero. He was also my grandfather. He made a legacy with his life by doing the right thing. He was very loyal to the people he encountered. His legacy began from fighting in a war against Pakistan. My grandad did not just help the country of India, but the entire world. The people of India still continue to reflect on the many things he accomplished in his life.

George Joseph Kunnel was 18 years old when he was recruited into the military. He was needed by the Indian army because they were about to fight in a war with Pakistan. He was a truly great citizen because he not only fought for India, but he saved many lives. The war did test him in many ways. He lost his best friend in the war. From all of the depression he was feeling from the loss of his friend, he took a leave of absence from the war. Since there were not many soldiers left to fight, he was on active duty almost all the time. He was later transported to Mumbai, where he was resting and mourning the loss of his friend. On the way there Pakistani soldiers attacked the bus my grandad was riding in. The soldiers killed almost everyone on that bus. My grandad barely escaped the shooting. When the coast was clear, he went outside to observe the damage they did to the city.

He could not believe the wreckage that he saw. There were people without homes, and damage due to fires. He was moved with all of the destruction from the attack. He decided that with the help of the community, he wanted to raise money to help fix the city. The fundraiser was called, "Save the land." My Grandpa raised about \$250,000!

People all over the world heard about the fundraiser and donated different amounts of money to help. This made a huge impact in this particular region. Workers worked day in and out fixing the

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wreckage. They even started to build houses for the homeless. He gave his money to help these innocent people who lost their homes. Many people there were now safe, warm, and secure. George Joseph went back to the military that summer. While fighting, he unfortunately died.

My grandpa was a truly great citizen. He fought for the country of India and gave many people hope. His legacy will be remembered for years to come. He made a difference in India for many people. He is my role model, but most importantly, my grandfather.