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Essay

I can proudly call myself a Sicilian-American, and I feel as if I represent this in my everyday life. However, I cannot lie to myself and say that I know what it is like to truly be a Sicilian, as I've lived in America my entire life, but I can proudly say that I have seen the pride and great character of a true Sicilian in the life of my Grandfather.

Phillip Meuse, my Grandfather, was born in Texas and died in Texas, but his father and grandparents were born in Sicily and left for a new life here in America with their respective families. One of his grandfathers, Joe Roppolo, embraced life in America and was a very successful business owner in Falls County. His father's father (and namesake,) Filippo Miosi, longed for life back in Sicily, never fully learning English and essentially rejecting society in his new home. His father, Mike Meuse, followed the lead of his father-in-law, and fully embraced America, and became a successful businessman as well. My Grandfather was greatly influenced by all three of these men, and this is what made him the man that he was.

My grandfather of course grew up as a Sicilian in American society of the 40's, 50's & 60's, but this didn't stop him from being proud of his history and being himself. I like to feel I have incorporated many of his good characteristics into my own life that derived from his Sicilian history and his Catholic Faith. His pride was one of those traits that I loved so much. His pride was never selfish, he was always proud of everything he had accomplished, but stayed so humble. His family was what he was most proud of however, and no one could take that away from him. I hope to one day have that same pride for a family of my own. but today I'm proud of my current achievements, and this pride helps me to continue to build onto them and reach my final goals. My grandfather was also extremely caring, but tough. He didn't show it a whole lot but every decision he made was for the best interest of someone he loved and cared about. I also have incorporated this into my life by trying to bring up the people around me and care for them. I feel that my Grandfather was a great man on his own, but his Sicilian history truly made him into the man he was, and if it wasn't for him, my life wouldn't be the same.