

Dad was very proud of his Finnish heritage and there is a unique word that the Finns use that defines the Finnish people and their characterSISU

"SISU" stands for the philosophy that, what must be done will be done, regardless of cost....

SISU is: "Special strength and stubborn determination to continue and overcome in the moment of adversity. It is a combination of stamina, courage, and obstinacy held in reserve for hard times."

SISU is ... having the guts to stand up for what you believe in, or are striving for, regardless of the personal cost. It is a measure of integrity that surpasses the hardship and sees through to the end.

"SISU" is an inherent characteristic of the Finnish people... You might call it: backbone, spunk, stamina, guts, drive and perseverance.

It's a quality that makes a Finn do something and also to complete a task because failure is NOT acceptable - Not because someone else says so, But, because YOU yourself say so.

Born on the 4th of July, a firecracker baby, he patriotically served his country as young men did, giving more than most. He worked hard to come home, creating a new life, attending college, work and starting a family. He was a hardworking man that showed his love for his wife and children by providing a stable home with a no-nonsense philosophy and life style. In later years when Mom was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, he was faced with a serious challenge to his beliefs and resilience butSISU carried him from start to finish.

For the last few months he wasn't saying much.....chips, bacon, chocolate, but the day before he died he told Karen that he was "Bailing Out". And before he died, his last word was "Tomorrow".

I would like to think that SISU is something we, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have inherited that will carry us..... into tomorrow.

What greater honor is there than..... as a man moves forward, he leaves behind in each of us the best of what he was.