

MY DAD MY MVP

2011 Winners

Angels

Norm Wiles nominated by Lacey Wiles

My MVP is a cancer survivor and a father; he is selfless, loves unconditionally, and has the bravest, most giving heart. He is my support system, my therapist, and my best friend. This person is my Father, Norm Wiles. My dad has battled prostate cancer for the past 7 years. He has kept a perpetual smile on his face and never once let cancer bring him down or stop him from attending an Angel game, even just days after chemo! He has taught me to never give up no matter the obstacles. He is living proof that if you want something badly enough, you can achieve it. My dad deserves the world, and if I could give it to him I would. Norm Wiles is a fighter and now it is my time to fight for him. This is something he truly deserves. Please vote for my dad, my MVP, my Angel; Norm Wiles to receive this amazing gift. It would be the experience of a lifetime for him and would mean more than you know.

Astros

Alan Rochford nominated by Lisa Cookson

My Dad is a Great Guy. He puts family first, makes sure everyone knows he is proud & loves them. Funny Guy! He's there to tell you to clean your garage/Cut your grass/Ask you when you had your last oil change. Doesn't miss a ball game, dance recital or band concert, is front center camera ready. Dad leads by example, the way he lives his life. Volunteers at Church for anything they need and his community helps prepare meals for the homeless at holidays. He collects shoe boxes during the year, fills & wraps them for the homeless, because he believes everyone should have a present at Christmas. Volunteered during the hurricanes. He's 74 with a few aches/pains but he is always there to help. My parents had cancer the same time; he waited to treat his till Mom was treated so he could be there for her. He's truly a remarkable man and he is our MVP.

Athletics

David Yeager nominated by Heather Yeager

My dad has been one of my heroes since before day 1. He used to sing to me while I was in utero, so I literally came out the gates knowing his voice by heart. He's fought many setbacks in recent years: a year-long battle with meningitis and a battle with leukemia (thankfully, he is currently in remission!!) Through it all, he's always been able to make everyone around him laugh. Dad taught me how to play baseball; we spent countless afternoons in the back yard "in the bottom of the 9th, looking for a clutch hit". He took me to my first baseball game at the Coliseum, and bought me my first "baseball beer" years later (yes, I was legal). A's games have been an annual outing for many years. I still remember sitting next to him watching Eckersley warm-up in the pen while Parker took one over the fence. Dad means the world to my mom and I, as well as so many others. I'd love to honor him!

Blue Jays

Pablo Coffey nominated by Julia Johnson

Please, Please, Please, choose the greatest dad on EARTH! In the last year of my dad's life he has had to endure a very dangerous brain surgery, 37 sessions of radiation, and he also suffered a stroke. Daddy also had hernia surgery last month, in which his heart stopped. The wonderful Doctors made it start again! My daddy's favorite thing in the world other than me, my brother and mommy, is baseball! He loves the Blue Jays more than any other sports team in the world! My daddy is the bravest man in the world, and said if it wasn't for his kids he wouldn't have been so strong. He is a huge inspiration not only to me, but to all those in our life. He is, and always will be MY MVP. Do the right thing for daddy. And for me so I can see my first ever Blue Jays game!

Braves

Tom Martin nominated by Cindy Jeselnik

My dad didn't have a father to teach him how to play baseball. This didn't hinder his love of the game and learning how to play! He was star on his HS team and when WWII interfered with his ball career, he shared his fabulous talent by playing on the Army's traveling baseball team, entertaining troops around our country. In 1950 he was drafted into the minor leagues. After all, a switch-hitting, left-handed first baseman was a "goldmine". He soon had to return home to get a REAL job to support his family. He continued sharing his love of the game by organizing our area's first semi-pro baseball team, men and girls softball leagues. He was father and coach to hundreds of kids for forty+ years teaching them the rules of the game and of life! At the young age of 83, he still loves his Braves and the game which provided him with so much life and love! My daddy will ALWAYS be my MVP!

Brewers

Keith Maurer nominated by Erica Maurer

My Dad is an inspirational role model to both my brother & I. When my dad was only 12, he lost his father unexpectedly. I cannot imagine how hard that was on a little 12 year old, but my dad stayed strong & achieved all his goals. He worked hard & paid his own way through college at The University of Wisconsin Madison & now is a successful business man. I believe my dad wanted to give us the experiences & opportunities he never got to have with his father. He put in long hours of dedication so my brother & I could go to college & have a better life. I have learned so much from him & I can't thank him enough. My brother & I can only hope to follow in our dad's footsteps. Also, he's the biggest sports fan around & watches every game, if he's gone; it's being recorded at home. What could be a better way to show him how much he is loved & cherished by nominating him for MVP! Love you Dad!

Cardinals

Bill Schwentker nominated by Lavonne Taylor

My father has always been the man we all looked up to! He has always given us that vote of confidence we needed to get through the day. It wasn't easy for him to support 10 children however he made it work. When we needed advise he was always there!! Never has he ever asked us for anything he was always concerned about what he could do for us! It's his turn now! He has gone through a lot in his life and we just want him to know how much he is loved and appreciated each and every day. Our brother age 22 was killed in a car accident if it wouldn't have been for him we may never have gotten through that very tough time. He held his head up strong for all of us. He just recently lost his wife of 53 years and is so very alone, it's now our turn to be his strength! Getting this MVP award would be the best thing we could ever present him with. He is the greatest Cardinal fan ever!

Cubs

William Fair nominated by Heather McEathron

As an 160th Army medic, my father saved many lives, but I never fully appreciated what he did, until he saved me. Six months into my husband's deployment, I thought I was losing my mind overwhelmed in a new place with only my son and no friends nearby. My dad began to visit me and my son every day, and then stayed, ensuring a good man in his daily life. In this last 1.5 years my son and I have both gotten then chance to know the funny, wise, quiet man that always had my back even when I was a hard-headed child or an angry adolescent. During those turbulent years of my youth, I didn't appreciate him fully. Because of this, I am especially grateful for this chance to speak out about him now and how I will never take him for granted again. I simply could not have dreamed up a better father or grandfather.

D-backs

Dean Bowsher nominate by Michone Bowsher

Dean is a fantastic father of 2 boys & 2 stepchildren. He will & has given kids the shirt off his back & the money in his pocket. He has opened his home to kids who needed a place to stay or food. He has never turned anyone one. He umpires softball so he can help those who need it. He has helped churches with kids' sports such as umpiring, coaching, or just supporting. He makes sure that every kid he meets or sees has something special. Any child no matter of their age knows they have a place to call home if they need it. He had at one point almost 10 kids living here. He has bought clothes for kids as well as taken them out to have fun. He has made a difference in many lifes not to exclude his own. Anyone knows where to go if they need anything at all & Dean is the first one to help. I have included a picture of some of the kids that he has helped even if it's just advice.

Dodgers

Dale Kerns nominated by Kristy Mickelsen

My father is a stage 4 Kidney cancer patient since May 10th 2004, he has been undergoing treatments and surgeries ever since with no rest in between. He has gone from 210 pounds to 130 Pounds, has had a radical nephrectomy, radio ablation of the liver, and many chemotherapy treatments. Through all of the highs and lows and disappointments, my dad has remained in high spirits and happily cheers on his favorite baseball team, the LA Dodgers. Each night my dad and our family turn on the Dodgers game and Cheer right along with him! My dad is such an inspiration to me as he fights daily for his own life; he constantly takes time to show my brother and I how much he loves us, as well as our mother, and our children. I want to show my dad how much he means to me by nominating him as a MVP dad. I love you so much dad!

Giants

Greg Conklin nominated by Christina Conklin

My dad is not only my MVP because he taught me the good book of San Francisco Giants baseball but also because he became a single parent when I was in the 5th grade. He switched into mom-mode without skipping a beat. He was an expert in catching for our church's softball team but in addition became one in cooking, cleaning and taking care of kids. Instead of taking the easy way out and leaving all things feminine to my friends and their mom's he took an active role, from helping with boy problems, makeup and even clothes shopping. He gave me the courage and confidence to not only love all those things young teenage girls love but to appreciate a comeback two-out rally. Now we live a little farther apart than I would like but he always makes sure we go to at least one Giant's game a year together, to catch up and share our love of the one thing that brought us so much closer, baseball.

Indians

Justin Laenen nominated by Beth Laenen

My Dad is an Army Helicopter Pilot, but more important than that, he is the Cleveland Indians number 1 fan. Once he had to fly his helicopter all night, then when he got off duty in the morning, he drove 9 hours to St. Louis to watch the Indians play the Cardinals. As soon as the game was over, he drove 9 hours to get back to Ft. Rucker. That's a true fan. He is going to deploy to Afghanistan this summer and I know he will have his Indians flag with him when he goes. In all of my 4 years, I don't remember ever seeing him without his Indians baseball hat. We have lived in alot of different states, but no matter where we are, he still cheers for the Tribe. He even bought me an Indians shirt when I was little. There is only one thing that my Daddy loves more than the Tribe, and that's ME!

Mariners

Darrel Grad nominated by Samantha Grad

My dad is the most selfless man you will ever meet. In 2009 my father was diagnosed with prostate cancer. His diagnosis was the harshest reminder of how unfair life can be, but I never heard him say 'why me?' Even in that moment his concern was for my sister, my mom, & me. He taught me the greatest lesson I will ever learn: how to love someone. My dad was present. He was the one I called when I forgot my homework, who stayed home when we were sick, who packed school lunches every morning. He was the one dad at a Mother's Day performance because my mom was a teacher who couldn't leave work & he didn't want me to feel left out. He was at every parent/teacher conference, every choir concert, every school play, & every sporting event. I was fortunate enough to have my dad as a coach from t-ball all the way through high school and baseball will always be a big part of my life because of that.

Marlins

Tyrone Curry nominated by Melissa Curry

My dad is a MVP because he is a great father and coach. My dad is one of the few people who are helping bring baseball to the African American community. My dad spends hours teaching young boys how play baseball I call it his second home. My dad is very dedicated in helping these boys I find it amazing how he took boys who never played baseball in their life and in a few months won first place in there tournament against boys who been playing for years. All in all my dad is awesome that's why he's an MVP to me

Mets

Mark Raynor nominated by James Raynor

My father is my MVP and my idol. He is ex-chief of the Westhampton Beach Volunteer Fire Department and has been a member for over 30 years. In 1992 he was Police Officer of the Year in NYS for his heroic actions in saving a family from their burning home. My dad worked as a Police Officer for 18 years before he had to retire due to injury. After his retirement he was elected Trustee and Deputy Mayor of the Village of Westhampton Beach. A great man has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer recently and is currently battling the disease. He is the strongest guy I know and is giving cancer one hell of a fight. I look up to and follow in my father's footsteps. After putting everyone before him his entire life he is well deserving of being MVP!

Nationals

Wayne Schlauch nominated by Erin Schlauch

When we are young we all see our parents as superheroes that can do anything. As a 23 year old I still sincerely believe that about my Dad. As the father of 4 kids he has worked very hard to give us a great life. He always puts the needs of others before his own. Even when he suffered from a Heart attack he remained strong and wanted to return to work to continue providing for us. He is dependable and his integrity far surpasses anyone I have ever met and through example he has taught his children to be the same. He is always there for us whenever we need him. Since the Nationals have returned to the DC area he uses trips to the games as bonding experiences with us and now with his 6 grandkids. His story is not full of pomp and circumstance, just a hard working man, who is always willing to make sacrifices for his family. He truly is an MVP because there is nothing he cannot do.

Orioles

Jimmie Rubeling nominated by Laura Hahn

My Dad is my MVP for many reasons. To put it simply, my Dad is the most selfless person I've ever met. As an Engineman in the U.S. Navy, a Lieutenant in the Baltimore City Fire Department, and an amazing father, it has always been my Dad's nature to serve others. Although he is now retired and my brother and I no longer live at home he never ceases to amaze me at how completely generous and supportive he is. From the moment I was born my Dad has been a constant force in my life. Even with his crazy fire fighter schedule, my Dad always made time to play with me, chaperone field trips and make me laugh. Although his love and support has taken on different forms as I have grown older, my Dad still makes me laugh and never hesitates to help. From fixing my car, to remodeling my basement, to listening to my worries, my Dad is a true model of what an MVP Dad should look like.

Padres

Michael Alexander nominated by Heather Alexander

Padres Baseball has always been Father/Daughter time for us. I remember being 3 years old at the 1984 Championship game together. Us going to games every season became limited 8 years ago when he was diagnosed with Prostate Cancer, he was given only 2 years to live. I was devastated when we couldn't go to games because he was too sick from Chemotherapy. Unfortunately, he's now in Stage 4. I couldn't ask for a more supportive, loving Dad. He's been there for me through everything! He deserves this amazing day! I can't even explain what it'd mean to him! Please vote for my Dad because he continues to put others first while still fighting this horrible monster called cancer with such a positive attitude! I love him so much!

Phillies

Brian O'Donnell nominated by Jenny O'Donnell

I would like to nominate my husband, Brian, who is well deserving of the title of MVP Dad. Brian is the wonderful father of two small boys. When he is not teaching and coaching full-time during the week, he is playing Mr. Mom during the weekend while I work away from home. It is a grueling schedule that doesn't provide a break, but Brian loves every minute of it. He is a die-hard Phillies fan and loves nothing more than to watch a game with his boys at his side. My boys couldn't have a harder working, loving man for a father. Their game watching time is special time that our boys look forward to. He is definitely their MVP!

Pirates

Bill Nau nominated by Corey Nau

I am nominating my father for the MVP Dad because of his dedication to improving life of anyone he comes into contact with. He improves the quality of life for children all over the area in which he lives through coaching sports and other activities. My dad raised me and my sister for 18 years, until we were off to college. Once I left (the oldest child) my dad wanted to become a foster parent to help children who didn't have family, because he lived in a foster home when he was younger. Through being a foster parent my dad adopted what is now my little brother (5 yrs. old), then later decided to adopt a severe MR child who he had worked with at a Disability Center for children. Within one year of the adoption, the MR child died at age 12 due to complications he had in his life. My dad still continues to influence children even through heartache and rejection. My dad deserves MVP!

Rangers

Sam Welman nominated by Lori Welman

I am writing on behalf of my Granddaughter as she wanted to nominate her Grandfather MVP. Below is a poem she sent him last year on father's day. Author unknown. He never looks for praises, He's never one to boast, He just goes on quietly working, For those he loves the most, His dreams are seldom spoken, His wants are very few, And most of the time his worries, Will go unspoken too, He's there.... A firm foundation, Through all our storms of life, A sturdy hand to hold to, In times of stress and strife, A true friend we can turn to, When times are good or bad, One of our greatest blessings, The man that we call Dad. Caroline's Grandfather is a disabled vet who deals with his own ghosts but he raised six children as a single parent and is now raising his granddaughter. He will tell you he wasn't a hero, but he is a hero to this little girl. He is indeed a MVP Dad.

Rays

Ronald Anderson nominated by Jennifer Canarela

I know this sounds cliché but my dad is my hero. He has provided for the family when times were tough & never let anything affect us. When I was in high school & college he never once missed my softball games & I went to college out of state. He has always supported any decisions that I have made, even when he knew they weren't the best. He has battled cancer three times & is cancer free now. He is such a strong man to be able to survive that. Little over a year ago, he began to lose his vision. Instead of feeling sorry for himself, he decided to do something about it. He started an experimental procedure to help save the vision that he has. To this day, he is still fighting & we have begun to see improvements. This is so important to my family as he is expecting to be a grandpa in less than a month. He is going to be such a great inspiration to my son. I cannot wait for them to meet.

Red Sox

Robert Hamilton nominated by Ashley Shelley

Red Sox Nation had two new members when my brother and I were born. During our 86 year World Series drought living in North Carolina (the land of the Braves fans), this was uncommon. But we had something that other southern baseball fans didn't: our dad. He taught us about Pesky's Pole and the almighty Yaz before we could even talk. We bonded while sharing seasons of heartache and despair until that glorious 2004 championship. Our dad's passion goes far beyond his love for the Red Sox, though. He has taught us values, shown us leadership, and has been an admired coach for over 20 years. As he approaches his 50th birthday this year, I want to show my immense gratitude for the committed father he is. The best present that I could give him would be a trip to his beloved Fenway Park - for the very first time.

Reds

Phil Nelson nominated by Sheri Nelson

My dad is my MVP. Over 30 years ago, a trailer fell on his back and paralyzed him. He has been in a wheelchair ever since. Some people would give up, but my dad is a champion in the game of life. He has overcome obstacles. Ever since I was little, my dad has taught me how to play sports, even from his wheelchair. He was my coach and inspired me to take up softball. He has made me one of the biggest Reds fans around, just like him! My dad is there for me in anything I do and is the most supportive father around. He helps me with schoolwork and teaches me about life. My dad has also taught me about resilience. Through him, I see that you should never stop following your dreams. He has faced adversity in his life, yet he is the kindest man you could ever meet. My dad makes me want to be a better person every single day and I aspire to be just like him.

Rockies

Steven Brown nominated by Tamera Acosta-Brown Deal

When I was 8 years old, my Dad made a life changing decision and thought he was the lucky one getting a new daughter by legally adopting me, little did he know that I was the lucky one to be getting such a wonderful person who would love me as his own. My father is the most amazing, hardworking, loving and strong man I have ever met. He is a husband, father, grandfather, and sergeant for his city's police department and can now call himself a cancer survivor! In December of 2010 my dad was diagnosed with Stage 4 Large B Cell Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He has since undergone chemotherapy for 6 months, and is now "cancer-free". Through all of this my dad still never let it get him down. My father's dedication to his family, job and community is very admirable and anyone would be lucky to have such a terrific person in their lives. I love you Dad! You're my everything!

Royals

Curtis Tyra nominated by Jessica Tyra

(From 6-year old Hunter typed by Mom) My Daddy became my Daddy in October 2010 when he adopted me after he got back from Iraq. He married my Mommy in June 2009 and I got to call him my Daddy since then! He takes me outside each day to practice for baseball and teaches me new pitches. He is a very cool Dad and took me to my first Royals game last weekend. He has taught me all about baseball and I love him. He even lets me play his video game with him and learn about baseball. He's very excited that I love baseball and I am too! We have a new baby coming in June and Daddy promises that we will keep playing baseball together. He comes to my school plays and all of my baseball practices too. He even makes time to come visit me at school! He has to go away in August again and I will miss him a lot.

Tigers

Carmen Vargas nominated by Joe Vargas

I come from a family of 5 kids we are all grown up now and have our own families. We had a very good up bring especially for a Hispanic family. My dad is a retired concrete finisher how broke his back for 30 plus years doing hard and intense work just to provide us with a good catholic education and a wonderful place to live. I never knew how hard he actually worked till I witnessed it myself; I am now a construction worker. My father is now 76 years young survived prostate cancer and several different heart surgeries. Carmen Vargas is a true MVP DAD and a long time DETROIT TIGERS FAN! PLEASE FOR HIM!! Thank YOU!

Twins

Don Wander nominated by Andrea Kerfeld

Dads aren't made out to be the organized, caretaker type. Mostly, it's us moms who keep the home life running smooth. But my dad is different. Until this past Jan., he served as the organizer; caretaker & rallying point for our family as we watch our mom of 53 yrs lose her battle to cancer. I admit it was kind of weird seeing dad fold the laundry (especially those darn fitted sheets), write out grocery lists &, ever so carefully, administer mom's medications. It was a long battle for her, stretching over 7 years, but I feel we often forgot how hard it was on dad. As MN Twins fans, they could both loose themselves in a game, forgetting about it all and cheering for their favorites. My dad is a quiet, go-with-the-flow kind of guy. Just once, I'd love to give him the star treatment he'd never admit to earning, but so greatly deserves.

White Sox

Reyes Gonzalez nominated by Ideliza Hernandez

My dad, Rey Gonzalez is my MVP! Dad has Parkinson's Disease in which has been a daily struggle on seeing him suffer from the disease. My dad has had the disease over 16 years, in which has not gotten any easier for him. He is at the point now that is at his max on the medications. That doesn't stop him from continuing strong and keeping faith that there will be a Cure! Dad is an amazing man, knows how to make someone smile and teach others on never giving up! He has taught so many on what it is to keep fighting and moving forward! He is there for anyone, and marks anyone's heart that meets him! Dad is our true MVP champ!

Yankees

Frank Sumi nominated by Ryan Sumi

My Dad Frank Sumi is an MVP in my eyes. I am 19 years old and prior to my birth, my parents were told that I had a spinal deformity and hydrocephalus, they were told that I may be mentally retarded and have all kind of problems and were given the decision whether to continue the pregnancy. My parents together decided that God had given me to them for whatever reason and chose life for me. I have had numerous health problems since birth and my dad has always been there with me through everything. Prior to my birth he had a pretty weak stomach, but has basically become a nurse and performing things for me that many men could not do. My dad and I are sports nuts and he takes me to any sporting event that we can possibly get to. He has gotten me involved in adaptive sports and has attended all my games to help me get dressed in the locker room and root me on the do the best I can.