

## **Why my grandmother should be the AARP grandparent of the year.**

**By Alikah Sasse of Vermillion**

I think my grandmother Patsy Sasse should be the AARP grandparent of the year because she has been a major part of my life since I was born. I think of her as my protector, my savior. When I was two, my parents divorced. My mother wasn't around to help with raising me, so that is when my grandmother stepped in. She cared for me while my dad worked long hours to make ends meet. To make me feel safe, comfortable, and adjusted to my new life without my mom, my grandmother tried her best to provide me with what I needed. She made me my own room at her house, so that when my dad was working I had a safe, comfortable place to play. Sometimes during the cool California nights she would take me outside to look at the stars. My grandma always made sure I never went without.

We moved to Vermillion, South Dakota about three years after my grandma. We moved here with my dad having no job and my stepmother pregnant. My grandma took us in until my dad got a job. She was willing to help my family with what ever we needed. Two and a half years ago my grandma had a heart attack that almost killed her and resulted in her having open heart surgery. She was in the hospital for three months. My family and I spent many days by her side taking care of her. I would draw her pictures for her hospital room. Then when she came home I decided it was my turn to take care of her. I would spend the night with her and sometimes even rub lotion on her legs and feet.

Almost losing my grandma was the hardest thing for my family. She is the glue that keeps us together as a family. She deserves this award because she is the perfect definition of the word "grandmother". She was a mother to me when I needed one. She was a provider when me and my family needed providing for. She gives love more than anyone I know. So please consider Patsy Sasse for the "AARP grandparent of the year" for unconditional love and all the dedication she has given to me and my family through the years. I love you mema.

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