

My father, Donald Davis, was an amazing man. He was African American and a true unjudging individual. He had friends at his work who would sometimes poke fun at him because he was black. He knew they were his friends and were just joking with him, but he said he always had to deal with that in one way or another. He said do not judge people for their decisions they sometimes make. Just be friendly to everyone and they eventually will do the same back to you. He joined the Army right out of high school and had to deal with some of the prejudice associated with his race in that environment, but he still proudly and unquestionably went to war and fought for our country and our rights. He was an amazing role model for me to want to live and honor his name and heritage.

The choices that I make reflect on my upbringing. That includes my family, my school (who has always been one of my number one cheerleaders) and people around me who accept me and love me just as I am. I was diagnosed with AUTISM, which to me means...Amazing, Unique, Terrific, Imaginative, Smart and Mesmerizing. I do not let that title affect me in a bad or negative way. There are thousands of people who have the same diagnosis as me and they all are "AUTISM" in their own special way.

I believe I can make a difference if I keep paying it forward to the community and to my peers and let them know that everyone is Unique in their own amazing individual way. There is NOBODY else like you in this whole world. That's pretty cool.