

My family has been involved in the greyhound industry for the past thirty years. My grandfather has been raising, boarding and training greyhounds since 1987. Although I was not born until many years later, I do have some memories of my grandparents' greyhounds and their involvement in the industry.

Although my grandfather no longer has greyhounds at his house, I remember the many years when he did. I remember my grandma talking about the puppies the puppies being born. My sister and I would ask to hold them, and we would come up with our own names for each of the little puppies. My dad would help my grandparents let the dogs out for exercise, and I remember seeing all of the dogs and getting excited. Some of my best childhood memories from my grandparents' house involve greyhounds.

My grandfather has been involved with greyhounds for many years. He has been a TGA member for over thirty years, and has served on the TGA board of directors for many years. He also was involved in legalization of paramutual wagering in Texas, and attended several hearings in Austin. He often talked about the greyhound industry with me, and I have always been interested in the different aspects of the business. During the past few years, my grandpa was involved in the kennel business at the dog track. This was often a topic of conversation when I visited. We would sit around the computer to see how his dogs performed. It was fun to get together and cheer as our dogs raced around the track.

As a senior in high school, I was involved in two varsity sports, multiple extracurricular activities, and served my church in many ways. I had an A average throughout high school, and won several awards and honors through my involvement in sports. I will be attending Texas A&M and majoring in sport management. I hope to inspire young women to excel and achieve excellence in sports as my coaches did for me. Sports are a great way to learn leadership skills, perseverance, and how to work with others of different backgrounds. I know that through my degree from Texas A&M I will be able to contribute to society in a positive way.

Although I will be away at college next year, I will continue to stay very involved with my family. I love keeping up with my grandparents' interests and hobbies. Although the greyhound industry is no longer prevalent in Texas, it definitely made an impact on my childhood. Greyhounds have played an important role in my family's lives. I am grateful for the opportunities that the greyhound business has given me and my family.

Peyton Parker