

Lauren Lambertson

Miss Skipjack Contestant

Chesapeake's Waterman

Throughout my whole life the Chesapeake Bay and watermen have always played a vital role. Growing up on the eastern shore definitely provides its chances to discover hard work and integrity. There are quite a few watermen in my life and they are the first ones to know what hard work is all about.

One of the most influential people in my life is my great grandmother Mae Daugherty, or as we all call her "Granny." At the young age of forty-two her husband Lewis Daugherty passed away unexpectedly from a heart attack, while she was nine months pregnant with my great aunt Lou. Due to the fact that Granny chose to never remarry she had to provide everything for her five children by herself until they were old enough to contribute. Being in a town that was heavily dependant on the bay she turned to making crab pots, and quite a few of them might I add. She never stopped focusing on her children and being able to provide for them, at one point she had fallen and broken her wrist but she still kept on persevering and making crab pots. This resulted in Mae Daugherty being the first woman to ever be inducted into the "Watermen's Hall of Fame" in 2011. She was presented with this honor for her devotion of making crab pots for thirty-one years, which come out to be more than one hundred thousand crab pots made. Coincidentally her daughter Becky married a man that was from Smith Island and was a watermen himself, this being my great uncle David Corbin.

My uncle David went through his career as a waterman like his father Leslie Corbin did and eventually taught his son Jordan Corbin what it took to be a waterman. Jordan knew that he belonged on the water and after completing college decided that the water was where he wanted to stay. This past year Jordan has had the honor to be named apart of the Dave Corbin and Son Seafood company. Not only do these men know what hard work is but they also know

how to provide for their family all year long in just a short few months. I have the honor of holding a position in their company of cutting and wrapping soft crabs. A person never seems to fully realize how much time goes into being a watermen until they have the chance of working for one. Being apart of a watermans business can be difficult, but without the abundance of soft crabs here in the Chesapeake Bay there would be many people without jobs and a scarce number of watermen. Being a waterman seems to be a dying profession. I am proud to have the privilege of such hard workers in my family.

From watching all of the hard work my family of watermen accomplish there is nothing that makes me prouder to be from the Eastern Shore and surrounded by the Chesapeake Bay. Thank you to all the watermen who dedicate themselves to the Chesapeake Bay.