

Determined: After 78 Years, This Woman Is Still Called “Michelle”.



Just about all of us have dreams that we hope to achieve in our damnably short lives. But the sad fact is, for the majority of us, they can't help but eventually fall by the wayside. It's unfortunate, of course, but a simple fact of reality. For a lucky few, though, the dream lingers until we realise we're actually living it – like this inspiring Elmswick woman. 78 years into her life, she's still called “Michelle”!

“It's something I've been striving for my entire life” says 78 year old Michelle Wallis. “It hasn't always been easy, I'll admit – there are all kinds of other names out there to lure me, and trip me up.” But Michelle has stayed focussed, kept her head down, and has thus far achieved a remarkable feat. She puts her success down to discipline: “it's hard work, not talent, that has gotten me here. I stay away from christenings and courthouses, to keep me from temptation.”

Her children are of course very proud of their mother. Daughter Lucy says “she could so easily have been consumed with jealousy at the fresh names we had; similarly, she could have foisted her dreams on us and named us “Michelle”, but she didn't do either.” Michelle knows she's nearing the finish line at this point, but she has no intention whatsoever of getting cocky. “There are brand new names coming out every single day, and while I'm sure they're very flash and exciting, I don't mess around with them”, she tells us. “Being called Michelle is pretty much second nature to me now, but I'm not about to get complacent; that's just the sort of thing that can trip you up.”

We'd like to extend our congratulations to the once and future Michelle, and we just know she'll make it through the final furlong. In a few years' time, treat yourself to a peep at her gravestone: if it proudly reads “Michelle”, you'll know she's done it!