

Publications

“Just like my immigrant dad, Dreamers energize America,” The Seattle Times

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By Mike Vaska

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It wasn't until after college that my dad told me his secret over breakfast at Denny's. I knew he was an immigrant, graduated from public high school, served in the U.S. Army and was a community leader on the Eastside. But the rest of his story was that of a 13-year-old in a German refugee camp at the end of World War II, who was given a fake birth certificate and false name by a Lutheran minister so he would not be returned to his homeland, the Soviet Union, most certainly to the forced labor camps.

My dad kept his story a secret because he feared deportation. This fear is shared today by 790,000 Dreamers - that is, children unlawfully brought to this country before age 16.

Continue reading on [The Seattle Times](#) website.

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