

Script Ellis Island 1: immigration Wall

So the day that I visited Ellis Island was September 30th. I took the subway from midtown Manhattan down to Battery Park. I started to board the ferry to Ellis Island and when I first got to Ellis Island, the first thing that I did was that I went to the Immigrant Wall. And they have a wall of names, and I can remember back in the 1980s, when **Lee ICOKA** and some other people started investing money into redoing Ellis Island to make it what it is today, they asked for donations and in return for a donation they would place the name of an immigrant on this wall. And I can remember that our family got some money together and sent the name and I always knew that grandpa's name was on the wall so when I got to Ellis Island I went out and so I was able to walk right to the panel and find my grandpa's name. I got pretty emotional when I first saw it, you know just knowing my grandpa's name was there and the fact that it's always going to be there, that you know my kids when I take my kids there we can see it and you know hopefully my grandkids and so that was very emotional to be able to see that name on the wall.

because I don't know if I could make that same decision that he made. You know he was a 26 year old and he had fought in WW1 as a German marine, and his entire family lived in Germany except for his uncle, and uhm he knew that ultimately he probably would have a better life if he came to the US and so he left his family, he left everything that he knew, and went to a country where he couldn't speak the language, and I, I don't know if I could make that same decision.