

The last time President Kennedy saw Billy was at the Boston Armory in October 1963. It was "The New England Salute to the President" Dinner, and President Kennedy came over to spend time with Billy and Marsha and talk about old times.

One of the things Billy and Marsha treasured most was the telegram that President Kennedy sent to their daughter Barbara on her third birthday—May 29, 1963. They had the same birthday, and President Kennedy told her "Congratulations on our birthdays." And ever after, Barbara could show the telegram and say, "My father knew President John F. Kennedy, right from the beginning."

The secret of Billy's success was no secret at all to all of us who knew him. He was Irish to the core. The light in his Irish eyes and his Irish heart and soul was always on. It sparkled in everything he ever did, every story he ever told, every friend he ever made, everything he ever did. When the Kennedys and countless others hear the great Irish anthem, we think of Billy:

When Irish eyes are smiling,
Sure it's like a morn in spring.
In the lilt of Irish laughter,
You can hear the angels sing.

When Irish hearts are happy,
All the world seems bright and gay,
And when Irish eyes are smiling,
Sure they'll steal your heart away.

To Marsha and Barbara and A.J. and all the rest of Billy's wonderful family, on behalf of all the Kennedys, I say today, as others in our family have said so often over the years, "You stole all our hearts away, Billy. We love you, Billy. We miss you, Billy. And we'll always remember you."

HONORING BOB LENT

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before you today to pay tribute to a loyal friend and tireless advocate of America's working class citizens. On May 5, 1998, members and friends of the United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America will honor Mr. Bob Lent, as he retires from his position as director of Michigan UAW's Region I after many years of dedicated service.

It is nearly impossible to imagine the condition of Michigan's labor movement without the benefit of Bob Lent's insight and leadership. His is a career that has spanned half a century, beginning in 1949, when at the age of 19, he was hired by Dodge Motor Co. as a spray painter. He later left Dodge for the U.S. Army, serving as a paratrooper from 1951 to 1953. Upon his return to civilian life, Bob found employment with Chrysler and reestablished his association with the UAW. As a member of Local 869, Bob served in a number of capacities, including alternate chief steward, trustee chairman, vice president, and a 4-year tenure as president. Bob was appointed as education representative of region 1B in 1972, and became assistant director in 1982. When Region I and Region 1B merged to form a larger, stronger Region 1 in 1983, Bob was elected director, the position he has held to this day.

In addition to his illustrious career with the UAW, Bob has also developed a high degree of respect in the political, educational, and civic arenas as well. He has been a precinct delegate, and serves on Labor Advisory committees at Oakland University in Rochester and Wayne State University in Detroit. He is a life member of the NAACP, serves on the board of directors of the United Way of Pontiac-Oakland County, and the Detroit Area United Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, we in the great state of Michigan are more than proud of our reputation as the automotive capital of the world, having recently celebrated the 100th anniversary of the automobile. Just as we are proud of the product, we are proud and grateful for the men and women who day in and day out work to provide these quality products and bolster our pride. Bob Lent is one of those people. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Bob, his wife Earline, and their son Steven, all the best.

TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to join my colleagues in commemorating the Armenian Genocide and the solemn memory of the 1.5 million Armenians who lost their lives earlier this century. This is an important day to reflect on the lessons of history and work to avoid the horrors faced by the Armenian people in 1915.

For the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, I would very much like to submit a letter concerning the Armenian Genocide that I sent to President Bill Clinton. It is my earnest hope that the United States Congress, with President Clinton's determining leadership, will swiftly move to adopt a resolution acknowledging the Armenian Genocide.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, April 21, 1998.

Hon. WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
President of the United States.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am writing to you, as a proponent of peace and stability in the Caucasus, to urge your Administration to play an active role in ending Turkey's denial of the Armenian Genocide.

In addition to the clear moral imperative to appropriately recognize and commemorate all instances of Genocide, such a move would serve our own national interests by ensuring that the United States is viewed as an impartial and honest broker in the ongoing Nagorno-Karabagh peace process.

During your 1992 Presidential campaign, you acknowledged the "Genocide of 1915." Your words were welcomed by Armenians and all people of good conscience as a principled stand by a leader committed to resisting the Turkish government's shameful campaign to deny the Armenian Genocide. It is unfortunate that members of your Administration have failed to live up to your own words, issuing ambiguous statements about the "Armenian massacres." I strongly encourage the Administration to use the correct term, genocide, to describe the systematic and deliberate extermination of the Armenian people—a crime against humanity thoroughly documented in our own national archives.

As a nation, we pay a great price for our government's participation in the Turkish government's denial of the Armenian Genocide. As you would surely agree, complicity in the denial of genocide—for any reason, at any time—is simply unacceptable conduct for the world's leading defender of human rights.

The United States' long-standing acquiescence of Turkey's denial was accurately characterized in 1995 by Stanley Cohen, a professor of criminology at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, writing in "Law and Social Inquiry," published by the American Bar Foundation: "The nearest successful example [of collective denial] in the modern era is the 80 years of official denial by successive Turkish governments of the 1915-17 genocide against the Armenians in which some 1.5 million people lost their lives. This denial has been sustained by deliberate propaganda, lying and cover-ups, forging documents, suppression of archives, and bribing scholars. The West, especially the United States, has colluded by not referring to the massacres in the United Nations, ignoring memorial ceremonies, and surrendering to Turkish pressures in NATO and other strategic arenas of cooperation."

As I noted, withholding the proper recognition of the Armenian Genocide also significant hinders our nation's ability to help resolve the ongoing conflict over Nagorno-Karabagh. The Administration's assurance of security guarantees for the people of Nagorno-Karabagh are greatly weakened by our government's unwillingness, after 83 years, to acknowledge that a crime of genocide was committed against the Armenian nation. This unwillingness seriously undermines the faith that the people of Karabagh have that the United States will stand up for their rights in the event of renewed Azerbaijani aggression.

Mr. President, very appropriately, you have always stressed that the United States must lead on the question of fundamental freedoms around the world. Your statement on March 25th of this year in the Rwandan capital was in the proudest tradition of our nation's commitment to human rights. At the Kigali airport, you stated that, "Genocide can occur anywhere. It is not an African phenomenon. We must have global vigilance. And never again must we be shy in the face of evidence."

Mr. President, the evidence of the Armenian Genocide is clear. Now is the time to stand up for justice and help bring an end to Turkey's denial of the Armenian Genocide.

Sincerely,

STEVEN R. ROTHMAN,

Member of Congress.

COMMENDING SHELBY CORBITT VICK

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk about the value of an excellent education. I would like to tell you about Shelby Vick, a student from my hometown of Fort Collins, Colorado.

Shelby Corbitt Vick was born November 15, 1986 and is the eldest child and only daughter of Joseph James Vick and Patricia Burns Vick. She was born in Fort Collins. She attends St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School as a 5th grader. Shelby has one younger brother, Emmett James Andrew Vick. Emmett is nine years old and was also born in Fort Collins.

Shelby's mother and father both graduated from the University of Texas at Austin. Her mother is a homemaker and volunteers extensively at Shelby's school. Her father is an attorney who practices in Fort Collins and Greeley, Colorado.

Shelby's interests include horseback riding and anything to do with horses. Shelby is a voracious reader. Shelby enjoys playing volleyball and basketball on her school's team. Shelby plans to attend college and become an author writing stories about horses.

Recently Shelby entered a nationwide history essay contest. She has written an exceptional essay which was chosen as the national winner of the 5th Grade American History Essay Contest sponsored by the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit Miss Vicki's winning essay for the RECORD and enthusiastically commend it to my colleagues.

"FORTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY"—FORT LARAMIE

(By Shelby Vick)

Fort Laramie is a national historic site in southeastern Wyoming. It was not an ordinary fort. It did not have any walls, moats, or watch towers. A visit to this landmark conjures up images of the old west. This remote site was an important stop for many people, yesterday and today. Now you are invited to travel back in time to a "Grand Old Post".

Fort Laramie, earlier called Fort William, was first built of cottonwood logs by Fitzpatrick and Sublette in 1834. The fort was later moved upstream along the Laramie River and renamed Fort Laramie after Joseph LaRamee. Fort Laramie is on the west bank of the Laramie River, halfway between St. Louis and the West coast.

Fort Laramie attracted many traders. Famous visitors included Kit Carson, Jim Bridger, Buffalo Bill, Brigham Young, Horace Greeley, Colonel William Collins, General Dodge, General Sherman, and Chief Red Cloud. The American Fur Company was using Fort Laramie as a trading post when military authorities, recognizing the need for a chain of forts to protect the settlers, purchased the fort for \$4,000.

Plans were drawn up for a traditional "fort" with a blockhouse and stockade to be built. Since lumber had to be hauled from forty miles away, the blockhouses and wall were never built. The only defensive structure at Fort Laramie was the old adobe fort. There were many other structures, including a store, barracks, a corral, a hospital, and a warehouse.

The army recruited many poor and often recent immigrants as soldiers, some paid as little as \$13.00 a month. Soldiers found the frontier life boring and isolated, so there were many deserters.

Weather was harsh on the Wyoming plains and it was a greater enemy than the Indians. Summers were very hot. Winters were sometimes bitter with wind temperatures dropping to -40 degrees. Amputations of frozen hands and feet were common.

Fort Laramie is along the Oregon Trail, the Black Hills Gold Rush Trail and is the beginning of the Bozeman Trail. Settlers stopped to get fresh oxen and mules, wash clothes and to mail letters back home. In 1850 over 37,000 settlers registered at Fort Laramie. Everyone rested, wagons were repaired, and food stocks resupplied.

In 1851 over 10,000 Indians (Sioux, Crow, Arapahoe, and Cheyenne) met and agreed upon a peace treaty at Fort Laramie. The tribes could neither fight with each other nor attack settlers. Whites would be allowed

to have roads through Indian lands and the government would give the tribes gifts. Annual payments of \$50,000 per year for fifty years would be paid to the Indians along with educational programs to help them become farmers.

Fort Laramie served as a Pony Express stop in 1860. In 1861, when the telegraph arrived, the Pony Express ended. When the telegraph was relocated to southern Wyoming, the settlers also took this new route, and left Fort Laramie isolated. In 1863 Bozeman Trail settlers began traveling through Fort Laramie again. The government used military activity along the Bozeman Trail, as a diversion to keep the Indians from interfering with the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad across southern Wyoming.

Fort Laramie was a grand old post with an important place in American history. Fort Laramie's significance as a supply stop in the settling of the American West is unquestioned. Many a soldier and weary traveler found comfort or hardship at this fort. One hundred sixty three years ago travelers and pioneers came to Fort Laramie on horses and in wagons on their journey. Today tourists are coming in cars to understand the fort's past.

Mr. Speaker, education is the key to success for all Americans. Quality education is provided at schools like St. Joseph's Elementary School. St. Joseph's Elementary School was established in 1926 by St. Joseph's Parish. There are 242 students at St. Joseph's and it is the only Catholic elementary school in Fort Collins. The school has published a statement of philosophy which I urge my colleagues to consider.

BASIC PHILOSOPHY OF SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL

We affirm the purpose of Saint Joseph School is the Christian, intellectual, social and physical growth of each child. Our aim is the development of the total person with Catholic, Christian attitudes and values, and skills fitting him/her for life in our society and in God's Kingdom.

We recognize the need for high academic achievement in our rapidly advancing and complex world and are dedicated to providing the environment best fulfilling this need. We expect our children, reflecting their individual abilities, to achieve in academic areas at a rate equal to or greater than surrounding schools.

We recognize that not all societies and/or communities share in our Christian values and/or belief. We are dedicated to preparing each child for his/her place in our society. It is our desire to instill in each child a working knowledge of the Catholic faith.

Further recognizing our physical nature, we are dedicated to developing the child's physical talents and training him/her to use these talents for the general welfare of society.

With the Second Vatican Council we affirm our conviction that the Catholic School "retains its immense importance in the circumstances of our time" and we recall the duty of Catholic parents "to entrust their children to Catholic Schools when and where this is possible".

Mr. Speaker, St. Joe's is dedicated to educating devoted Christian citizens to contribute to their community. St. Joseph's Elementary School has a strong, demanding curriculum that challenges the students to meet high expectations. The educators along with involved parents continue to produce bright students who are great assets to the northern Colorado community.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my privilege to describe the talent of Miss Vick to my colleagues

today. Shelby is a shining example of what a child can do given the proper academic instruction and the best possible upbringing. Obviously, I'm exceedingly proud of her accomplishments and the great work being done by all the good folks at St. Joe's

INTRODUCTION OF THE "WIRE TRANSFER FAIRNESS AND DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1998"

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, immigrants in Chicago and throughout the United States work hard, same money, and send billions of their U.S. dollars to relatives living in foreign countries. The money wiring industry—dominated by giants Western Union and MoneyGram—have emerged as the major vehicle for sending dollars across borders.

Immigrants with family in Mexico are among the primary customers of these services. It is estimated that between \$4 and \$6 billion is sent annually from the U.S. to Mexico through such wire payments. This figure has an enormous impact on Mexico, as it represents the country's fourth-largest source of income from international sources—trailing only the money it receives for manufactured goods, oil, and tourism.

Many Mexican immigrants prefer to use the services offered by wire transfer companies rather than postal or other delivery services. Some customers are attracted by the companies, advertisements which promise fast, affordable, convenient service. Others have been dissuaded from sending money through other means after reports began circulating of armed robberies of courier services in Mexico and mail pouches disappearing from Mexican postal branches.

As a result, Western Union and MoneyGram have virtually cornered the market. The two companies—plus a third, Orlandi Valuta which, like Western Union, is owned by the First Data Co.—account for a combined total of more than 90 percent of all transfers.

At first glance, the wire transfer companies appear to represent an attractive option for prospective consumers. In part, this is the result of massive advertising campaigns through which the companies target Latino customers. In such advertisements, companies promise relatively low rates. For instance, one company recently publicized a \$12 fee for a \$300 transfer to Mexico.

On other occasions, the companies have tried to appear to be even more generous. For instance, following the devastation caused by Hurricane Pauline which struck Mexico in October 1997, Western Union advertised "free" service for concerned family members in the U.S. sending money to help the victims.

However, such promises are grossly misleading. The cost to the consumer is far less reasonable—and certainly not "free."

That is because the companies fail to inform their clients—either in print advertisements, in displays at their establishments, or on forms presented to the customer—that an additional cost will be imposed on the customer and on the recipient in Mexico.

The hidden cost arises from the rate at which the wire transfer companies convert dollars into pesos for their customers, compared