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 every year, 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,
When Irish eyes are smiling,
Sure it's like a morn in spring.

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 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 1948, 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 1B and Region 1 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 illustrous 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 heart 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.

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 Corbitt Vick, a student from my hometown of Fort Collins, Colorado. Shelby Corbitt Vick was born November 15, 1988 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 sponsored by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit Miss Vick’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 but had 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 both yesterday and today. Now you are invited to travel back in time to a “Grand Old Post”.

Fort Laramie, earlier called Fort William was built with cottonwood logs by Fitzpatrick and Sublette in 1834. The fort was later moved upstream along the Laramie River and renamed Fort Laramie after Joseph Laramie is on the old 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 authority recognized the need for a chain of forts to protect the settlers. They purchased the fort for $4,000.

Plans were drawn up for a traditional “fort” with a blockhouse and stockade to be built. An earthen rampart 40 feet wide, 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.

Weaver was hard 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. The first computations 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. Settlements 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. Fort Laramie rescinded, wagon trains 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 action along the Bozeman Trail, as a diversion to keep the Indians from interfering with 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 212 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 our students. 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 facilitating 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 we are prepared to be even more generous. For preparing each child for his/her place in 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 am exceedingly proud of her accomplishments and the great work being done by all the good folks at St. Joe’s.