

Chris Ferreby was raised outside of Rochester, in Fairport. He is survived by a wife, Amy and a newborn child, Tyler. Amy recalls her husband as being able to "always make you laugh" and willing to "do anything for his friends."

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of these two men. Their heroism, bravery and selfless dedication to our country will not be forgotten.

COMMENDING THE ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENTS OF STUDENTS
FROM WILLISTON NORTH-
AMPTON SCHOOL IN
EASTHAMPTON, MA

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the students of Williston Northampton School in Easthampton, MA for their excellence in academic competition. Under the tutelage of Mr. Peter Gun, these young people have shown an acute knowledge of the Constitution and its Amendments, in particular the Bill of Rights.

On April 21–23, 2001 more than 1200 students from across the country will be in Washington, DC to demonstrate their expertise in American government and represent their home states as part of the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program, sponsored in part by the U.S. Department of Education. I am pleased to announce the class from Williston Northampton School will participate on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Mr. Gun's students have taken a strong interest in the principles that govern our nation. Through their studies, they have become aware of the founders' efforts to fashion an enduring republic. Through their accomplishments, they have shown a keen understanding of the political process, its participants and the laws that will ensure America's continued vitality.

It is an honor to recognize such a meritorious group.

SHED LIGHT ON HIDDEN FEES

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on March 29 I introduced the "Wire Transfer Fairness and Disclosure Act of 2001," a bill to require additional disclosures relating to exchange rates in transfers involving international transactions. Sixty-two representatives currently support this important legislation.

Immigrants throughout the United States work hard, save money and send billions of dollars to relatives living in foreign countries. The money sent home helps finance basic needs ranging from food and medicine to education to new homes. Unfortunately, customers wiring money to Mexico are often losing millions of dollars to undisclosed "currency conversion fees" charged by giant firms such as Western Union and MoneyGram.

Wire Transfer companies aggressively target audiences in immigrant communities with ads promising low rates for international transfers. However, such promises are grossly misleading particularly for those with ties to Mexico or other Latin American countries, since companies do not always clearly disclose extra fees charged for converting dollars into Mexican pesos. While large wire service companies typically obtain pesos at bulk bargain rates, they charge a significant currency conversion fee to their U.S. customers. The exchange rate charged to customers sending U.S. dollars to Mexico routinely varies from the benchmark rates by as much as 15 percent. The profits from these hidden currency conversion fees are staggering, allowing companies to reap millions of dollars more than they make from service fees.

To address these problems, this Act requires full disclosure of all fees involved in all money-wiring transactions. More specifically, the bill requires that any financial institution or money transmitting business which initiates an international money transfer on behalf of a consumer (whether or not the consumer maintains an account at such institution or business) shall provide the following disclosures:

The exchange rate used by the financial institution or money transmitting business in connection with such transaction.

The exchange rate prevailing at a major financial center of the foreign country whose currency is involved in the transaction, as of the close of business on the business day immediately preceding the date of the transaction (or the official exchange rate, if any, of the government or central bank of such foreign country).

All commissions and fees charged by the financial institution or money transmitting business in connection with such transaction.

The exact amount of foreign currency to be received by the recipient in the foreign country, which shall be disclosed to the consumer before the transaction is consummated and printed on the receipt given to the consumer.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the full text of this pro-consumer legislation for the record and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

H.R. 1306

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Wire Transfer Fairness and Disclosure Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE OF EXCHANGE RATES IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL MONEY TRANSFERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 918, 919, 920, and 921 as sections 919, 920, 921, and 922, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 917 the following new section:

"SEC. 918. DISCLOSURE OF EXCHANGE RATES IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL MONEY TRANSFERS.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—

"(1) INTERNATIONAL MONEY TRANSFER.—The term 'international money transfer' means any money transmitting service involving an international transaction which is provided by a financial institution or a money transmitting business.

"(2) MONEY TRANSMITTING SERVICE.—The term 'money transmitting service' has the

meaning given to such term in section 5330(d)(2) of title 31, United States Code.

"(3) MONEY TRANSMITTING BUSINESS.—The term 'money transmitting business' means any business which—

(A) provides check cashing, currency exchange, or money transmitting or remittance services, or issues or redeems money orders, travelers' checks, and other similar instruments; and

(B) is not a depository institution (as defined in section 5313(g) of title 31, United States Code).

"(b) EXCHANGE RATE AND FEES DISCLOSURES REQUIRED.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Any financial institution or money transmitting business which initiates an international money transfer on behalf of a consumer (whether or not the consumer maintains an account at such institution or business) shall; provide the following disclosures in the manner required under this section:

"(A) The exchange rate used by the financial institution or money transmitting business in connection with such transaction.

"(B) The exchange rate prevailing at a major financial center of the foreign country whose currency is involved in the transaction, as of the close of business on the business day immediately preceding the date of the transaction (or the official exchange rate, if any, of the government or central bank of such foreign country).

"(C) All commissions and fees charged by the financial institution or money transmitting business in connection with such transaction.

"(D) The exact amount of foreign currency to be received by the recipient in the foreign country, which shall be disclosed to the consumer before the transaction is consummated and printed on the receipt referred to in paragraph (3).

"(2) PROMINENT DISCLOSURE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE PLACE OF BUSINESS WHERE AN INTERNATIONAL MONEY TRANSFER IS INITIATED.—The information required to be disclosed under subparagraphs (A), (B) and (C) of paragraph (1) shall be prominently displayed on the premises of the financial institution or money transmitting business both at the interior location to which the public is admitted for purposes of initiating an international money transfer and on the exterior of any such premises.

"(3) PROMINENT DISCLOSURE IN ALL RECEIPTS AND FORMS USED IN THE PLACE OF BUSINESS WHERE AN INTERNATIONAL MONEY TRANSFER IS INITIATED.—The information required to be disclosed under paragraph (1) shall be prominently displayed on all forms and receipts used by the financial institution or money transmitting business when initiating an international money transfer in such premises.

"(c) ADVERTISEMENTS IN PRINT, BROADCAST, AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA AND OUTDOOR ADVERTISING.—The information required to be disclosed under subparagraphs (A) and (C) of subsection (b)(1) shall be included—

"(1) in any advertisement, announcements, or solicitation which is mailed by the financial institution or money transmitting business and pertains to international money transfer; or

"(2) in any print, broadcast, or electronic medium or outdoor advertising display not on the premises of the financial institution or money transmitting business and pertaining to international money transfer.

"(d) DISCLOSURES IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH.—The disclosures required under this section shall be in English and in the same language as that principally used by the financial institution or money transmitting business, or any of its agents, to advertise, solicit, or negotiate, either orally or

in writing, at that office if other than English.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect at the end of the 3-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

TRIBUTE TO SAINT PATRICK'S
PARISH IN SAN FRANCISCO, CA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join today to pay tribute to a Saint Patrick's Parish in San Francisco, California, which is celebrating its 150th Anniversary. From its humble beginnings the Parish has blossomed into a San Francisco institution that has weathered wars, troubled times, and the occasional earthquake. Despite those hardships, for the last 150 years Saint Patrick's Parish has remained a structure of faith for its parishioners.

Shortly after Fr. John Maginnis celebrated the first mass in a rented hall on June 9, 1851, a temporary Church was constructed, and Saint Patrick's had established a foothold in San Francisco. During this time, California was experiencing the Gold Rush, which brought the proliferation of industry and commerce to the area, and resulted in the population of San Francisco growing rapidly. The Parish responded to this expansion by purchasing a lot on Mission Street, between Third and Fourth Streets and started construction of a magnificent new Church. After two years, construction was completed, and the new Church was dedicated on March 17, 1872 at which time the Catholic population of the parish was estimated at 30,000 parishioners.

Having overseen the construction of the Church, Fr. Maginnis now set his sights on new projects, and soon founded both the St. Vincent School for Girls and the St. Patrick's School for Boys. Both schools were taught by the Daughters of Charity from Emmitsburg, Maryland, and served the Parish until 1964. After the schools closed, the site was later transformed into the Alexis Apartments for the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, for the first fifty-four years after its founding, Saint Patrick's Parish knew only one pastor, Father John Maginnis. Fr. Maginnis was succeeded by the Reverend Monsignor John Rogers in 1905. Shortly thereafter, the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906 struck, and the Church was reduced to rubble. This catastrophe of biblical proportions was met head on by Msgr. Rogers and the parishioners of St. Patrick's. After establishing a men's shelter named Tir-na-Nog, which is Gaelic for Land of Youth, Msgr. Rogers began the reconstruction of the Church. The reconstruction was completed and the Church was rededicated in 1914. An impressive brick structure, Saint Patrick's Church still stands majestic as a living memorial to the undaunted faith and endurance of people who gave of themselves in times of personal hardship to build this institution.

Mr. Speaker, for the last century and a half years Saint Patrick's Parish has provided for

the spiritual needs of the community, as well as run programs to aid the elderly, youth, and the marginalized. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Saint Patrick's Parish in marking their sesquicentennial.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE MCELHATTON

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to a most beloved and enduring San Francisco Bay Area icon—Dave McElhatton of KPIX Channel 5 television and KCBS radio. His distinguished 50-year career in broadcast journalism is being celebrated at an extraordinary tribute dinner at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco on April 21, 2001, for the benefit of his alma mater, San Francisco State University.

David McElhatton, who was born and raised in Oakland, California, enrolled at San Francisco on the G.I. bill in 1948, following service in the U.S. Army. Only two weeks after graduating with a degree in Broadcast & Electronic Communication Arts, Dave was employed at KCBS radio. He quickly became a prominent radio personality in the Bay Area. His first introduction to Bay Area radio listeners was as the host of KCBS's "Music 'Til Dawn" and "Masters of Melody"—the last live network music program to originate from San Francisco. He hosted the Bay Area's first call-in talk show, "Viewpoint" and the last local audience-participation radio program, "McElhatton in the Morning." As KCBS's morning anchor for a quarter century, Dave became one of the Bay Area's best known and best regarded radio personalities, and he was instrumental in developing the KCBS News/Radio format.

For the second quarter century of his career in broadcast journalism, Dave McElhatton was at the helm of Channel 5 Eyewitness News, where his credibility and affability made it easy for him to move seamlessly from radio to television. His superior journalistic skills and his excellent delivery led to a distinguished television news career marked by a multitude of journalistic awards and a multitude of faithful viewers.

Dave McElhatton is the recipient of the rarely-bestowed "Governor's Award" from the Board of Governors of the Northern California Emmy Awards, which is given in recognition of truly outstanding and unique individual achievements of long duration. He has also received numerous awards from the Associated Press, United Press International, the Press Club of San Francisco, the Peninsula Press Club, the Northern California Television and Radio News Directors Association, the 19th Annual Radio Fellow Award of the University of San Francisco, the James J. Strebing Memorial Award, a Special Award for Excellence from the American Society of Anesthesiologists, and the highest honor of the Aviation Writers' Association. In 1997, Dave McElhatton was inducted into the San Francisco State University Hall of Fame. For many years, Dave taught broadcasting at his alma mater, San Francisco State University, where I was a professor of economics for three decades.

Since retiring from broadcasting, Mr. McElhatton continues to contribute to our community by serving as master of ceremonies and keynote speaker at fund-raising events for Bay Area non-profit and charitable organizations. He also can be seen in California's skies, where he enjoys piloting his own plane.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Dave McElhatton for a distinguished 50-year career in journalism. We wish Dave and his wife, Karen, a retirement replete with richly deserved good health and happiness.

HONORING KELVIN TORBERT

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge the accomplishments of Kelvin Torbert, a senior at Flint Northwestern High School. Kelvin was chosen out of more than 542,000 high school boys basketball players to be named the 2001 Gatorade National High School Boys Basketball Player of the Year. This is one of the highest awards conferred upon a high school student athlete. In addition to both academic and athletic excellence, recipients must also maintain high moral character. Kelvin is an outstanding young man who personifies the criteria, and I am proud to be honoring him here today.

Kelvin has a strong sense of teamwork and can play any position on the court. His remarkable athletic skills have made him the highest scorer in Northwestern's history, with a record 1,978 points. As a four year starter on the varsity team, he has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards including McDonalds All-American, Parade Magazine All-American, three time 1st team All-State player, and most recently, the Mr. Basketball award, given to the state's best player by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan.

Not only is Kelvin an exceptional athlete, but he has also maintained 3.1 GPA. He is an active member of student government, demonstrating positive leadership qualities in his school extending well into the Flint community. Successfully balancing academics with athletics, he will be an asset to the student body at Michigan State University next fall. He is an outstanding example of the teamwork and high moral character stressed in Flint public schools.

Constantly maintaining high standards for himself, Kelvin has become a role model for younger students, working with young people at the local Boys and Girls Club and at summer basketball camp. He teaches them the importance of teamwork and dedication on the court and its implications throughout life.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to honor an exemplary individual like Kelvin Torbert, and the contributions he has made to his team. He is an example of what can be accomplished by encouragement and reinforcement of a student's talents, and belief in his or her ability to excel.