

the movie being advertised, "The Fourth Kind," has been rated PG-13. Late afternoon also had a particularly creepy "Criminal Minds" clip about forced impregnation, with a chilling baby-doll motif. Comparable commercials have been shown during early-evening prime-time broadcasts.

This is the week when we're reminded of how much fun can be derived from a sense of the fantastic, and how deeply the desire for terrifying thrills is imbued in many film fans. But the choice of whether to be confronted with these images should clearly still belong to each person. Innocent bystanders should not be ambushed by these kinds of graphically violent, disturbing scenes.

IN MEMORY OF NORMAND BEST

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my father-in-law, Normand Best.

TRIBUTE TO AN EVERYDAY AMERICAN:
NORMAND A. BEST

Normand Audrey Best was born in Omaha, Nebraska on November 3, 1928, to his proud parents, Catherine and Paul Best. He was born and raised in the country's heartland where his mother's family, the Kelleys, had farmed since the late 1880s. The nation was on the verge of the Depression and ultimately Paul's work would take them to California, and then on to Washington State, but it was his midwestern values and work ethic that would serve him all of his life. He would often talk at Christmastime with great fondness of the farm in Nebraska, the small schools, and his family.

The Kelley girls—as Norm's mother, Catherine, and her sisters were called—made their mark in the community and the parish. The five daughters of John Kelley would remain close throughout their lives as pillars of both the parish and the community. They were a source of comfort and solace to one another. Norm has two sisters, Joan and Mildred, and a brother, Gordon. A nine-year difference in age didn't allow the brothers to get close until they were older; however, Gordon looked up to his older brother and more than Best Brothers they were Best Friends and great fishing buddies.

Norm had a quiet reserve about him, a humility that comes from being raised in hard times and the decency and demeanor of a gentleman and a soldier. Like most who served in his generation, he said little about his war experience. It's not a subject that one dwells on, but over a few Bellows, his drink of preference, he would reflect on his service in the Marine Corps and how the training and discipline had served him well.

Norm enlisted in the United States Marine Corps during World War II and served with distinction. He spoke rarely but poignantly of having to escort home the bodies of fallen heroes. He recalled how painful it was to go to the door of the Marines' parents and give them the news. He was proud of the Marines and the way they conducted themselves and the honor and respect they paid to those who had given the full measure of devotion to their country.

He had a mind that was perhaps predisposed to math and engineering. He had a clearheaded way of making decisions and an acute ability to analyze data and information. These skills would serve him well in his profession as a flight engineer for Pan Amer-

ican, as a trouble shooter for Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, and even in a game of pinocchle.

How a boy from Nebraska develops an aptitude for flight and engineering is a story in itself. It was in pursuit of this career that his life would be transformed when he met Carolyn Tasse. Carolyn, as his brother Gordon aptly described her, had a smile you could see a block away and lighted up any room she entered with its warmth. They were the quintessential American couple—he looking like Glen Ford and she a short-haired Donna Reed. They met at Pan Am, so even before they married they got to travel and see the world together. This Midwestern man and New England woman fell in love and were married. His job carried them to Minnesota and then on to San Antonio, where they started their family of four: Leslie, Louise, Warren and Allen. Ultimately his job would lead them to East Hartford, Connecticut, where he would live, work, and raise his family for the rest of his life.

It's hard to comprehend how at 39 years of age he dealt with Carolyn's passing. She died of Cancer in 1967, leaving him with four little children—the oldest, Leslie, who was nine and the youngest, Allen, who was just four. Nothing in his life experience could have prepared him for this, yet he met the circumstance with the resolve to keep his family together. To those ends he gave the full measure of his devotion both to his deceased wife and his children.

He and Carolyn were a love story before Ryan O'Neil and Ali McGraw had portrayed a similar saga in the movie "A Love Story." He never remarried and dedicated himself to his children and his work. He made sure that he took the family on interesting vacations that they all still recall fondly whenever they gather together. He cooked, cleaned, and showed up at all of their events. He was their compass and their rock. There was no doubt of his love and selfless devotion.

I was fortunate to meet him through his daughter, Leslie, and eventually became his son-in-law. I treasured my conversations, dinners, birthdays, holidays and especially the times when his brother Gordon or his mother were in town. The card games and the stories had all of the sentimentality that makes the bond of family so strong. If I close my eyes, I can still hear the laughter of their voices lingering in the night.

He was proud of his children and their accomplishments and especially proud of his grandchildren, whom he also showered with the full measure of his love and devotion. He was the family support system, the go-to person in a crisis, and the unfailing steady rock on which everyone depended and whom he never let down.

He reminded me very much of my own Father, different but alike in many, many ways. Their values, work ethic, sense of responsibility and character are examples that I only wish I could emulate. He was an everyday man who minded his own business and tended to his individual needs and family responsibilities. He asked little for all he had sacrificed.

I often wondered when I'd see him drift off or reflect while he was listening to his music if he wasn't thinking of he and Carolyn traveling the world, creating a family and how short their time was together. Having given the full measure of his devotion, it's heart-rending to know he was reunited with Carolyn on August 6, 2009. Norm completed his circle of life, and while he is dearly missed, we are comforted knowing his journey has brought him to a place his heart never left—back home to her.

THANKING BOB LARSON ON HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO CENTRAL ILLINOIS

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob Larson, a true community leader in my hometown of Peoria, Illinois. People in Central Illinois know Bob very well from his work as a WMBD 31 News anchor and his efforts in community service. This Friday, November 6th, Easter Seals of Central Illinois is honoring Mr. Larson at its 19th Annual Tribute Dinner. Each year Easter Seals recognizes individuals who have served the Central Illinois community in extraordinary ways. Past honorees include Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and Congressman Bob Michel.

Bob Larson began his work in the community at a very early age. When the owner of WRMI Radio in Morris, Illinois heard Bob's voice, he offered him a job and soon the once shy 16-year-old boy was on the air and his passion for broadcasting began.

Larson eventually went on to Texas Christian University and graduated in 1971. Upon graduation, Bob returned home to Illinois and began his career at WMBD in Peoria, which was then both a television and an AM/FM radio station. In his 38 years at WMBD, Bob served as a movie host, weatherman, reporter, and anchor. He has been honored by the Associated Press for Best Downstate Radio Newscast and Best Downstate TV Newscast, as well as being named "Best News Anchor" by the Illinois Broadcasters Association.

However, Central Illinois residents don't only have to turn on their televisions to see Bob Larson at work. When he joined the Peoria community, Bob made a commitment to dedicate his time and skills to dozens of local charities and events. He began volunteering for the Easter Seals telethon in the 1970s, and in 1981 when the usual hosts unexpectedly could not attend, it was Bob who rose to the occasion and hosted the program. He was such a great host that in 1993 he was designated as one of the official emcees, a role he has filled ever since. Each year Bob and WMBD produce preview stories about the children of Easter Seals. Over the years he has watched these children grow and make their own positive contributions to the community.

Bob is also an active supporter of the American Heart Association, a cause he became involved with after a news story he was working on ended up saving his life. As part of the story, Larson allowed himself to be scanned by a new piece of equipment at Methodist Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois. A simple demonstration became a life-changing moment when doctors discovered Larson had a dangerous blockage of his heart. The story turned into a three-part series following Larson through the whole experience and inspiring men who were watching at home to get their own hearts checked.

Larson also volunteers for St. Jude, the Salvation Army, the Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Cancer Center for Health Living, and Junior Achievement. He hosts the annual telethon of the Muscular Dystrophy Association and has emceed the annual Santa Claus parade since 1974.

In summary, Madam Speaker, Bob Larson is an exceptional example to all Americans of what the phrase "service to community" truly means. In these challenging times for America, it's folks like Bob Larson who illustrate the best of our country. I wish to sincerely thank Mr. Larson for all he has done for the people of Peoria and beyond, and congratulate him on his much deserved honors.