

began to assemble ideas for the construction of a new church. With Father Todorovich's leadership and committed efforts, as well as the vast efforts of many parishioners, the people of Saint Sava were able to move into their current place of worship. In May of 1991, the parish celebrated a "new beginning" when a brand new building was constructed. This magnificent building opened in Merrillville, where relics which survived the fire were blessed and installed into the new church. Today, Saint Sava's members continue to gather there to worship and to celebrate, as well as to continue with the mission of their founding members.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church on their 95th anniversary. Throughout many hardships and trials, the members of Saint Sava have dedicated themselves to providing a spiritual and guiding light through the protection of the Serbian Orthodox faith and traditions for all of Northwest Indiana. Their constant dedication and commitment is worthy of the highest commendation.

CELEBRATING THE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION'S 30 YEARS OF FIGHTING FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

HON. JACKIE SPEIER-

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, San Francisco's Community Alliance for Special Education (CASE) was formed in 1979 in response to an unmet need to protect the educational rights of children with disabilities. As CASE celebrates its 30th anniversary, we can all celebrate their good and inspired work supporting children with disabilities by ensuring the fair and just implementation of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and state special education laws.

Perhaps most impressively, CASE recognizes the financial hardship that can beset a family raising a child with a disability and has never turned away a client based on their ability to pay.

Their excellent work has led to impressive results over the past three decades, including 94% of children served by CASE receiving appropriate educational services and 95% of clients being connected to local parent networks to help them address other family needs.

Over the last thirty years, CASE has provided more than 20,000 consultations to parents and professionals, represented upwards of 3,000 families and trained in excess of 25,000 people. In addition, their handbook, Special Education Rights, is the most widely-used resource guide in California on the special education process.

Madam Speaker, you and I are both blessed to represent what San Francisco legend Herb Caen called "The city that knows how". I am happy to report that CASE furthers San Francisco's proud legacy by successfully harnessing the power of collaboration and communication to engage children, parents, educators and the community to advance the admirable goal of improving educational op-

portunities for children with disabilities so that they, too, can become happy and productive members of the community.

It is with great admiration that I commend the Community Alliance for Special Education for making our world a better place by advocating for those who otherwise might not be heard. I congratulate everyone who has had a part in making CASE the success story it is and look forward to more great work over the next thirty years.

TRIBUTE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Madam Speaker, In recognition of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I would like to thank the United States Army for the work it has done lately to raise awareness about domestic violence. So many resources are expended ensuring that our soldiers are equipped to fight wars abroad, however, upon their return, soldiers and their families should not be subjected to war at home in the form of domestic violence. It takes a community and an ongoing commitment to address the epidemic of domestic violence. No sector of society is immune from domestic violence, including the armed services.

Fortunately, progress is being made by raising awareness about domestic violence and assisting families impacted by domestic violence. Yet, so much work remains to be done because senseless acts of violence continue to occur in homes and communities across America every day.

The 2009 Army Domestic Violence Awareness Month observance theme is "Make the Right Choice! Act to Prevent Domestic Abuse." This theme stresses the need for each person in the Army to know that he or she can do something to prevent domestic violence. For instance, the Army's Family Advocacy program is working hard to address domestic violence by providing counseling and other resources to Army families.

A critical component of these prevention efforts is to support soldiers when they return home so that the effects of conditions such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or other reactions to the combat experience, do not contribute to domestic violence. These resources provide soldiers with the counseling and support they need to cope with the violence they were subjected to while at war.

However, we know that PTSD does not cause domestic violence; we must direct resources to address the inter-generational cycle of violence and support victims in violent relationships. We must foster an atmosphere of no tolerance for domestic violence, no matter the rank or status of the perpetrator of the violence or that of the victim.

I would like to take this opportunity today to join the Army in its commitment to educating soldiers and their families about domestic violence and recognize the collective responsibility of all of us to prevent domestic violence wherever it occurs.

I hope we can all reaffirm our commitment to raising awareness about domestic violence,

and most importantly, breaking the silence and stigma surrounding domestic violence. We do this by encouraging atmospheres of openness and responsiveness in support of victims instead of punishing them. The war against domestic violence is one that has waged far too long, but with ongoing commitment and hard work, we can win this war!

WATCHING THE GIANTS, AND AMBUSHED BY ZOMBIES

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an essay published in the New York Times and written by a constituent of mine, Mr. James H. Burns (Jim Burns) of Valley Stream.

[Oct. 23, 2009]

WATCHING THE GIANTS, AND AMBUSHED BY ZOMBIES

Columbia Pictures Images from ads for films such as "Zombieland" can startle or frighten unwarly TV viewers.

Halloween has always been the season when Hollywood unleashes some of its most suspenseful and supernatural offerings. When I was a child in the late '60s and early '70s, the horror slate was a splendid array, ranging from the relative innocence of monster-ramas to the erotically tinged creature flicks of Britain's famed Hammer Studios. Somewhere in between were the less stylish but often enjoyable low-budget drive-in fare from America's exploitation studios (almost all of which went out of business years ago) and the occasional major-studio horror movies often rereleased at this time of year.

But this mostly imaginative crop devolved to the dime-a-dozen, cut-'em-up-and-watch-'em-bleed movies, of which "Friday the 13th" is perhaps the most famous example. Although I was one of the earliest group of writers for Fangoria, the horror-movie magazine, and also acted in a couple of horror films years ago, my opinion of the genre's more grotesque examples has changed.

I used to believe that slasher movies—or "gore-or," as I started calling them in the 1980s—were like a celluloid roller coaster, a relatively harmless catharsis. But now I think that the intensity of Hollywood's blood-and-guts barrage and the ability of such films to desensitize at least a portion of the audience cannot be denied. And they certainly should not be advertised on television during what are supposed to be family viewing hours.

Sometime back, I was stunned to look up from a halftime snack to see horrifying images from one of the "Hostel" movies—rapidly edited for maximum terrifying impact—being run as a commercial during a 4 p.m. football game.

A few weeks ago, the Giants game included an advertisement with a zombie child (dressed in her chiffonlike finest, a pink bow in her hair) being dragged behind a car, and a bikini beauty running in a parking lot, her mouth covered with a darkened ooze. (The spot, an ad for "Zombieland," ended with a "hero" threatening an obese ghoul with an oversized pair of garden shears.)

Last Sunday about 2 p.m., Giants fans saw possibly even more disturbing sequences—an apoplectic screamer, a man having convulsions, and an almost subliminal shot of a foreboding, wraithlike alien—even though

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 pre-disposed 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.