

Born in Peconic on Aug. 12, 1895, Vail was 22 when he was drafted in 1917. He was a farmer at the time, but was in love with the water. "I wanted to get in the Navy," he said in an interview with Newsday last year. "They said they'd take me only as a ship's cook." He didn't want to be a cook, so he went to the draft board in December, 1917.

Vail was a member of the Army's 77th, known as the Rainbow Division, which trained at Camp Upton in Brookhaven. He was hospitalized after an enemy mustard-gas attack in France's Argonne Forest in early October, 1918, a month before the war ended. After a number of governmental paperwork snafus, he was awarded the Purple Heart in 1982.

"My son, Everett, was a B-24 pilot in World War II," he has said. "He did 35 missions over Germany, and came home without a scratch. During the Vietnam War, I had seven grandsons in the service." Vail learned only last year that he was a descendant of Revolutionary War soldier Christopher Vail.

Vail first learned to drive in a 1905 Pierce Arrow, and cars became a hobby, then a business. In 1919, he and his brother got a Hupmobile franchise, the beginning of an automobile sales business that grew and grew, lasting until 1983, when he retired at 88.

"In '27 I bought an acre of potato land for \$8,000," he said. "We built a garage, and I built up a \$100,000 business in a little town."

"When World II started, most car dealers went out of business," Vail's grandson, Carl III, said yesterday. "He went out and bought a lot of cars. He once told me he was either going to go bankrupt or make a lot of money. After the war, he had a lot of cars, and he made a lot of money."

Vail helped found chapters of the American Legion in Mattituck and Southold. He was a life member of Eastern Long Island Hospital, a member of the Southold Universalist Church, the Southold Rotary Club and the East End Surf and Fishing Club.

Vail is survived by three children: Mary Hart of Southold, Virginia Bard of New York City and C. Everett Vail of Malabar, Fla.

Cremation was private. A memorial service will be held 3 p.m. Sunday, May 3, at the Universalist Church in Southold.

IN RECOGNITION OF BOOKS FOR KIDS

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a very special program underway in my district, Books For Kids.

Now entering its fourth year, Books for Kids aims to collect 70,000 new or nearly new books for children ages 2–12 who have never owned a book of their own or who cannot afford to buy one.

As stated by Dr. Elizabeth Cappella, a confunder of Books for Kids, this program was established to help those children who can benefit the most by developing an early love of reading. That early love of reading can help them gain a major foundation for successful learning and living.

The Books for Kids drive has grown from an idea initiated in 1995 with the cooperation of The Buffalo News, United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, the Junior League of Buffalo, Inc.,

Buffalo State College's Project Flight and the 30th Congressional District to a successful community wide effort to promote literacy.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with the entire Western New York community, to announce the start of the 1998 Books for Kids drive. I encourage my colleagues to join in similar programs in their Congressional Districts and strive to provide Books for Kids.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, next week this body will consider campaign finance reform. After a year and a half of work on this issue, by myself and many other members of Congress, I am hopeful that the result of our work is a meaningful bill that gets the big money out of the electoral process. I am afraid, however, that we may not see true reform.

An editorial in Saturday's New York Times may have foreshadowed the result of next week. "In order to quell a rebellion by Democrats and reform-minded Republicans, House Speaker Newt Gingrich promised that there would be a vote by the end of March on campaign finance reform. Now that the deadline is approaching, Mr. Gingrich is working hard to make sure the vote is rigged to come out the way he wants."

Mr. Speaker, I hope the New York Times is wrong. I hope that next week you will respond to the call of the public to fix our broken campaign finance system. I hope that next week we will finally have a chance to deliver true reform of our system and restore the public's faith in our democracy. Mr. Speaker, please don't let the people of my district down.

VOLUNTEERISM BY THE MERLE REED UNIT OF DELANO, CALIFORNIA

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the work of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #124, the Merle Reed Unit of Delano, California, for their remarkable and outstanding community service in the 20th District of California on October 25, 1997, "Make a Difference" Day in Delano truly did make a substantive difference in the lives and well-being of the people of Delano. Thirty-five members of the Merle Reed Unit worked that day on seven different projects designed to benefit the community in a wide range of ways.

They volunteered during the local Red Ribbon Week, promoting drug free awareness throughout the community. They collected yard sale items worth approximately \$4,280 to sell at their "Spring Day", the proceeds of which will be donated to the Salvation Army and local church organizations. The Unit ran a canned food drive for the Holidays, recycled 583 pounds of bottles to benefit Veterans projects, and ran a comprehensive clean-up of

the Auxiliary Post Hall, beautifying both the interior and exterior of the community center. Visits to the sick, local hospital volunteering and a joint luncheon for local Post Boys and Girls State participants rounded out an extremely beneficial day of service.

I commend the members of the Merle Reed Unit for their excellent commitment to bettering the community and the lives of those who live in it through public service, and am proud to be able to make this statement to honor just one of the many outstanding examples of service done everyday throughout this nation. I hope their fellow citizens will recognize the great work that the American Legion Auxiliary Unit had done, and continues to do, for the community, and will follow their admirable example.

REMARKS OF HIS EMINENCE BERNARD CARDINAL LAW ON CUBA

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues the remarks of His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Law, Archbishop of Boston, on Friday, March 13, 1998. Cardinal Law participated as a speaker in a conference co-sponsored by the Inter-American Dialogue, the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, and the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies of Harvard University.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
TALK ON CUBA, MARCH 13, 1998, BY BERNARD CARDINAL LAW

In preparing these remarks, I reviewed my correspondence file from persons who accompanied me to Cuba for the Pope's visit. Our direct flight from Boston to Havana might have established a record in itself! Every letter expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate in a historic and profoundly moving event. Almost to a person there was the expressed desire to be of assistance to the Church in Cuba and to the Cuban people.

These pilgrims to Cuba included bishops, priests and sisters, and Catholic laity as well as Protestants and Jews. There were business leaders, bankers, doctors and a Health Care System President. There were heads of social service agencies and representatives of foundations. There were lawyers and judges, Congressmen, presidents of colleges, a law school dean and a university professor, and the editor of a national magazine. We were a wondrously diverse group, but we found unity in our conviction that the time is now for a change in U.S. policy towards Cuba.

Since returning from the Papal Visit, I have often been asked if I thought that change might now come to Cuba. The question misses the point that change has already come. An earlier barometer of change focused on the departure of Fidel Castro as the threshold for any substantive change. The events of the past year clearly demonstrate that that barometer simply does not work. The toothpaste is out of the tube, and Fidel Castro squeezed the tube.

Any blueprint for a change in policy which demands a change in leadership in another country is too rigid a starting point and depending on the means willing to be used to achieve that departure, could lack a moral claim. This is not to condone a dismal record