Alabama Judge Wins Profile in Courage Award

A Montgomery County, Alabama circuit court judge, who placed his political future in jeopardy by going against popular sentiment in a case involving separation of church and state, is the winner of the 1997 Profile in Courage Award. Charles Price was singled out by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation for his devotion to the principles of the American Constitution and judicial integrity which compelled him to rule that a fellow circuit court judge's courtroom display of the Ten Commandments for religious purposes was a violation of the First Amendment.

At a May 29 award ceremony at the Library, members of President Kennedy's family presented Judge Price with a $25,000 stipend and a silver lantern representing a beacon of hope. The lantern was designed by Edwin Schlossberg, Inc., and crafted by Tiffany & Co. Judge Price donated his stipend to charity.

It was particularly fitting that this year's ceremony was held on May 29, the 80th anniversary of President Kennedy's birth. His election in 1960 was a milestone in the ongoing battle against religious intolerance.

"Judge Charles Price demonstrated both integrity and courage in his ruling to support our nation's historical separation of church and state," said Caroline Kennedy, president of the Kennedy Library Foundation.

"Though he has been vilified by many of his constituents as being antireligion, Judge Price has in fact made a heroic stance to defend our country's proud history of religious tolerance and diversity."

Ms. Kennedy continued: "It is important that we celebrate and acknowledge political integrity and courage, if only to offset the cynicism surrounding those holding public office. It is too easy to criticize public officials, to dismiss their profession, to diminish their contributions, to question their motives. Democracy faces enough challenges without saddling it with doubt and cynicism. Rather than teach young Americans to ridicule the men and women who actively participate in politics, we should offer them examples of excellence and courage. Judge Charles Price is such an example."

In 1995, on behalf of two Etowah County residents, the American Civil Liberties Union of Alabama (ACLU) sued Etowah Circuit Court Judge Roy Moore for opening court sessions continued on page 10

"A sense of history and ability to learn from the past are of prime importance to any man in a position of leadership today."

Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy discussing Profiles in Courage

Summer 1997

Judge Price, accompanied by his wife Bernice, accepts the Profile in Courage Award from Caroline Kennedy, John Kennedy and Senator Edward Kennedy.

The Library and Foundation are now accessible on the World Wide Web. Our address is: http://www.cs.umb.edu/jfklibrary/index.htm
Supporters Celebrate Opening of Exhibits

To celebrate the opening of the Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy exhibits, the Library and Foundation hosted a private showing and reception on June 1 for members of the Friends of the Kennedy Library, Library-to-Library and Corporate Partnership Programs. More than 600 guests, some traveling from as far away as Oregon, attended the event which featured a presentation by Museum Curator Frank Rigg. Mr. Rigg provided a “behind-the-scenes” look at the planning and design of the new exhibits, pointing out items of particular interest for the unique insights they give into Mrs. Kennedy’s character, interests and accomplishments.

After viewing the exhibits, guests entered the Pavilion for a reception set against sweeping views of Boston’s skyline and inner harbor. There they had the opportunity to meet staff and enjoy light jazz music from the 1950s.

Members’ contributions help fund a wide variety of programs. In return, members receive such benefits as advance notice of forums, invitations to special “members only” events, free admission at all presidential libraries, and a 15 percent discount at the Museum Store.

For information on membership programs as well as upcoming members’ events, please call Aaron Sherer at 617-436-9986 ext. 11.

Library Member Nancy Weddell from Setauket, New York, with Museum Curator Frank Rigg

Wedding Exhibit Extended

Due to popular demand, the exhibit on the wedding of Jacqueline Lee Bouvier and John F. Kennedy will be on display through October 31. Originally scheduled to close September 1, the exhibit features the emerald and diamond engagement ring, the ivory silk taffeta wedding dress which required 50 yards of fabric and more than two months to make, and the original copy of a poem Mrs. Kennedy wrote about her husband as a gift to him on their first anniversary.

New exhibits on Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy have drawn record crowds since their May 31 opening. In the photo above, Caroline Kennedy and Senator Edward Kennedy view the exhibit on the wedding of John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Lee Bouvier.
At a Memorial Day ceremony honoring Special Forces soldiers who have given their lives for their country, the library dedicated and created a place of honor in its Museum for the green beret left by a member of the U.S. Army Special Forces at the Arlington National Cemetery gravesite of President Kennedy on November 25, 1963.

The green beret had been placed in front of the eternal flame by Command Sergeant Major Francis Buckly, a Special Forces soldier, who was part of the honor guard chosen to stand watch over the fallen commander-in-chief’s grave site. Members of the other branches of the armed forces subsequently followed his example and created a cap of military headgear on the President’s grave. The superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery later delivered the green beret and other military headgear to the Library where they have been stored for the last 54 years.

It was President Kennedy who encouraged the wearing of the green beret by the Special Forces. Preparing for an October 12, 1961 visit to the Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the President sent word to the center’s commander, Brigadier General William P. Yarborough, for all Special Forces soldiers to wear the uniform as part of the event.

The President felt that since they had a special mission, Special Forces should have something to set them apart from the rest. In 1962, he called the green beret “a symbol of excellence, a badge of courage, a mark of distinction in the fight for freedom.”

Participating in the Memorial Day ceremony were Major General William P. Taguey, commanding general of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, Congressmen Patrick J. Kennedy from Rhode Island, who recently rededicated the Kennedy Center and School; and Maxwell Taylor Kennedy, named by his father Robert F. Kennedy in honor of his close friend General Maxwell Taylor.

The formal dedication of the green beret included the playing of “The Ballad of the Green Beret” by the 215th Army Band, and a moment of silence followed by “Taps.”

In attendance were more than 300 members of the William F. Buckley Memorial Chapter of the U.S. Army Special Forces Association and their families, as well as friends and other dignitaries.

May Dinner Sets New Record

The ninth annual May fund-raising dinner set a new record, raising over $600,000 to support the Library's community and educational programs. Our thanks to the following corporations, foundations and individuals for their generosity and support:

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New York High School Student Wins Profile in Courage Essay Contest

It was December 7, 1993 and Carolyn McCarthy was on her way home from a community Christmas concert. When she pulled in the driveway, she noticed that their Christmas tree was still out on the front lawn. She had asked her husband, Dennis, and son, Kevin, to bring the tree indoors when they came home from their jobs in the city. She was a little irritated that it was now close to 11:00 and they had done nothing.

As she walked toward her two-story gray house in Mineola, New York, she was surprised to see her brother Tom waiting on the front lawn. Carolyn smiled at her brother and inquired why her husband, Dennis, had not taken care of the tree.

Tom just looked at her painfully and said, "You didn't hear about the train?"

"No, what about the train?"

Tom swallowed as he whispered, "Dennis is gone. Kevin is in the hospital."

It was not until later that she learned what had happened. Dennis, 52, and her son Kevin, 26, boarded the 5:33 Long Island Railroad train after a long day at Prudential Securities on Wall Street. Suddenly, a man named Colin Ferguson rose from his seat and started shooting at the 90 passengers in his car. He emptied his gun of the 15 bullets in the clip, then reloaded and emptied it again. Ferguson shot 25 people, killing six and injuring seven, in what would become known as the Long Island Railroad Massacre.

More importantly to Carolyn, he had killed her husband and her young son was clinging to life at North Shore University Hospital. He had been shot in both the head and hand and had a ten percent chance of living. Two days after the shooting, Dr. Nancy Epstein, Kevin's neu-

New York high school senior is the winner of the third annual Profile in Courage Essay Contest. Riki Lindhome of Portville Central High School wrote about the courage and resiliency of U.S. Representative Carolyn McCarthy, who, outraged at the murder of her husband and five others by a gunman on a Long Island train, went on to challenge and win the seat held by her congressman who had voted to repeal the assault weapons ban. Ms. Lindhome was honored at the May 29 Profile in Courage Award ceremony, receiving a citation and $2,000 scholarship to further her studies at Syracuse University.

Her essay was chosen from among 540 entries submitted by high school students in New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Contest rules require that students write not more than 1,000 words on some aspect of political courage.

Here is Ms. Lindhome's winning essay.
rosurgeon, determined that, if he did survive, he would never walk or talk again because one-seventh of his brain had been blown away on impact.

Carolyn McCarthy was deeply moved by this tragedy, but was devastated when she learned that the gun Ferguson had used was purchased in California and was being carried around illegally in New York. In addition, the bullet he had used, known as the black stallion, was specifically designed to open like a claw on impact in order to do the maximum damage. Surprisingly, these bullets were perfectly legal. Had Kevin been hit with conventional bullets, his injuries would have been less severe.

Eight months after the shooting, McCarthy went to Washington to speak in support of a federal ban on assault weapons. Congress passed the 1994 Crime Bill, which included a ban on 19 types of assault weapons and the 15-round clips that Ferguson had used.

Carolyn thought that her public crusade was finally over and she went back to nursing her son at the hospital. Just as things were becoming routine again, she heard the news that the congressman in her district, Daniel Frisa, had voted to repeal the assault weapons ban.

As her mind filled with rage, she went to see Congressman Frisa to remind him of the death of her husband and asked him for an explanation. Mr. Frisa had little to say to McCarthy, so he ignored her request and moved along into the crowd.

She didn’t know what to do, but she refused to let her husband’s death be in vain. Much to Frisa’s surprise, McCarthy called a press conference.

Now, the day after Memorial Day in 1996, Carolyn walked out onto her front lawn, the same place where she first heard the news two and a half years ago.

“My name is Carolyn McCarthy,” she told the flock of journalists, “and I am announcing today that I am running for Congress.”

McCarthy, a lifelong Republican, decided she had to run as a Democrat. She worked extremely hard on studying issues other than gun control. This was especially hard for McCarthy, since she has a rare form of dyslexia. The race for Congress was tough and she had to deal with many criticisms ranging from being told that she has exploited a life tragedy to being called a single issue candidate with no experience. However, McCarthy had quick and witty replies for anyone who condemned her.

As election day was approaching, McCarthy challenged Frisa to a debate. Cameramen and reporters filled the conference room and almost everyone in Long Island was watching. Only one thing was missing: Congresswoman Frisa. With this no-show, support for McCarthy skyrocketed, and she won the election.

Today, things are certainly looking up for Carolyn McCarthy. During his two and a half years in the hospital, her son Kevin made a miraculous recovery. He is walking and talking and is back at his job at Prudential Securities. McCarthy is an active member of Congress and an avid spokesperson on gun control. She and Kevin still live in that gray house in Mineola and every day at 5:33, they hear the whistle from the Long Island Rail Road train.

People deal with tragedy in different ways. Carolyn McCarthy found a strength and courage she never knew she had. When asked by a journalist, “Had your family not been struck by this terrible tragedy, do you think politics would have been in your future?”

“Absolutely not,” she replied.

“Absolutely not.”

Lady Bird Johnson visited the Library to see the new Jacqueline Kennedy exhibits. Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kennedy developed a friendship while their husbands served in the White House, a friendship which endured through the years. In the photo above, Mrs. Johnson discusses the exhibit on Jacqueline Kennedy’s youth with Kennedy Library Director Breda Gerritt.
Excerpts From Judge Price’s Remarks

To all of you who have come to share this occasion with me, I owe you a debt of gratitude. You have been a main source of support and encouragement. My family has witnessed and suffered through threats made directly to me and indirectly through law enforcement, and through a mountain of criticism and inflammatory demagoguery expressed by persons who command media attention. Through it all, my wife and two children have been courageous, supportive, and understanding.

Donald Philip quotes President Lincoln in “Lincoln on Leadership” as saying, “One should have the courage to handle unjust criticism.” I hope I have handled such criticism with fortitude. I would be remiss if I did not note that some media people have tried and many times succeeded in presenting balanced analysis of and reports on the case, thereby educating the citizenry.

Dr. George Washington Carver reminds us in his poem “Equippment” that “courage comes from within.” Courage, then, is the sum total of a man’s values and principles. It represents his philosophy. I have always believed that elected officials must adhere to a high standard of truthfulness and forthrightness, even when their re-election is threatened. I have tried to embrace one of President Lincoln’s philosophies: “Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it.”

When one becomes an elected official, he is entrusted with the public’s trust and confidence. Therefore, to execute his duties any less than the public’s belief in his integrity makes a mockery of our system. As an elected judge, I long ago made a pledge to respect the law, interpret the law, obey the law, and apply the law based on stare decisis, appellate court decisions, and/or legislative statutes and acts. Never have I committed myself as a judge to make a decision based on popularity or political expediency.

When the case for which I am given this award was assigned to me, I knew there would be strong reactions, no matter what my decision was. I sensed the most vocal reaction and public outcry would come from those who would view my ruling as an infringement of or threat to their religious freedom.

On the morning of the first hearing, a large crowd of demonstrators gathered outside the courthouse. They were proponents of opening court with a Christian prayer, sanctioned and promoted by the judge to the exclusion of all other religious prayers, chants, or other forms of religious expressions. Likewise, the demonstrators were in favor of the judge keeping in place two hand-carved plaques of the Ten Commandments on the courtroom wall behind his bench, though other educational or judicial documents denoting the development of the law in America were excluded.

My ruling that the prayer must cease, and the Ten Commandments must be removed, unless placed in a context or display with other educational and judicial documents showing the development of the judicial system in America, was then the state of law and continues to be. I believe many Americans are troubled by and resent the intrusion of government into religion in general, and their religious practices in particular. I believe they are equally troubled by the action of those who have little or no respect for the long-held concept of separation of church and state. Seemingly, too many public officials are willing to merge the two for their own political advancement. I am not one of them.

I respect people of faith, for I am one of them. As a judge, however, and as a principled human being, I will do what is legal and right. In making judicial decisions, I hope never to succumb to the political winds or to political popularity for the moment.

I have no intentions of evading tough and hard decisions, for to do so would make me unworthy of the honor you have bestowed on me with this award. I hope I shall continue to be a credit to you, the judiciary, my family and, most importantly, myself.

Ernest Hemingway defined courage as “grace under pressure.” I hope my actions have demonstrated the kind of grace to which Hemingway alluded. My generation received the torch passed by President Kennedy. The flame was emblemized not just as a symbol of faith in and hope for America. The flame touched our hearts and I hope still burns brightly, reminding us of our commitments, our duties, our obligations. As I receive the lantern today, I see it as an extension of that torch, I received from President Kennedy. I see it as an eternal symbol of hope and faith and commitment. To receive the lantern in any spirit short of this would be a disservice to President John F. Kennedy whom this award honors.
KING CALLS FOR RECOMMITMENT TO JFK'S IDEAS

Peace, freedom and cooperation were themes of an address by King Juan Carlos I of Spain at a Distinguished Foreign Visitors Program dinner at the Library on April 11. Speaking to more than 400 guests, the king set forth a course for the future by drawing upon President Kennedy's words and ideas, finding in them relevance to the challenges of today.

"Europeans and Americans must continue to propose for ourselves the objective that President Kennedy himself set at the time of the Cold War - not the victory of might, but the vindication of right; not peace at the expense of freedom, but both peace and freedom for all. This is the goal that my country pursues and fosters among its allies. Let us hope that between us all we will convert it into a lasting reality."

King Juan Carlos and his wife Queen Sofia were guests of honor at the dinner which was hosted by Senator and Mrs. Edward M. Kennedy and the Foundation's Board of Directors. The king and queen were recognized for their work on behalf of democracy and human rights.

King Juan Carlos is credited with leading Spain through a peaceful transition to democracy, after 36 years of dictatorship which ended in 1975 with the death of General Francisco Franco. The king's immediate action and opposition thwarted an attempted coup by a faction of the armed forces in 1981, thereby saving the Spanish Constitution and democracy. He has carried his message of democracy and peace to countries throughout the world.

Queen Sofia is well known for her courageous work in combating anti-Semitism. In 1994 she was awarded the Wiesenfeld prize for her leadership against racial and religious discrimination.

In introducing the king, Senator Kennedy recalled the royal couple's 1962 visit with President Kennedy when they traveled to the United States on their honeymoon as the prince and princess of Spain.

Founded by John and Diddy Cullinane, the Distinguished Foreign Visitors Program brings visiting heads of state to the Library for discussions of issues which improve international understanding and cooperation. Previous guests have included Philippines President Corazon Aquino, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Czech President Vaclav Havel, South African National Congress Deputy President Nelson Mandela, and Irish President Mary Robinson.

The program is funded through the generosity of the Cullinanes and the following corporations: BankBoston, Boston Capital Partners, Lau Technologies, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and Raytheon Company.

August 30, 1962: On a honeymoon trip to the United States, the then prince and princess of Spain meet with President Kennedy in the Oval Office.

April 11, 1997: Senator and Mrs. Edward Kennedy present King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia with a framed photograph of their 1962 Oval Office visit. (Robert Eng/Boston Herald)
Ceremony Honors Hemingway and Winship Award Winners


Ha Jin won the Hemingway Award for best first work of fiction for Ocean of Woods: Army Stories, a collection of short stories about the experiences of Chinese soldiers on duty near the Chinese-Russian border in the early 1970s. The L.L. Winship Award for best book by a New England author on a New England topic was presented to Alan Lightman for his biography, Charles Ives: A Life with Music.

Alabama Judge Wins Profile in Courage Award continued from page 1

with exclusively Christian prayer and for displaying the Ten Commandments behind his bench.

Although the lawsuit was dismissed, Governor Fob James and the state of Alabama filed suit against Judge Moore, the ACLU and the American Freethought Association in an effort to get a state judge to rule whether Judge Moore’s actions were unconstitutional.

In September 1996 all parties agreed to forego a trial and let Montgomery County Circuit Court Judge Charles Price decide the issue. Judge Price ruled in November 1996 that although prayer in the courtroom is unconstitutional, Judge Moore’s display of the Ten Commandments could remain.

After visiting the courtroom in February 1997, however, Judge Price reversed his earlier ruling and found that the hand-carved plaques containing the Ten Commandments violated the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of Alabama. He ruled that fellow Circuit Court Judge Roy Moore must remove or modify his courtroom display of the Ten Commandments so as not to violate the First Amendment.

Judge Price ordered Judge Moore to remove the Ten Commandments or to place them in a more historical context by displaying them with other symbols of law such as the Bill of Rights and Declaration of Independence.

So unpopular was Judge Price’s order, that Alabama Governor Fob James threatened to call out the National Guard and state troopers to keep his order from being carried out. The U.S. House of Representatives subsequently endorsed Judge Moore’s actions and, by a vote of 295-125, adopted a nonbinding resolution stating that the Ten Commandments, as the “cornerstone of a fair and just society,” should be allowed in government offices and courthouses.

Though a Sunday School teacher and steward of his own church, Judge Price was accused of waging an assault on Christianity and on religion by Christian conservatives at an April 12 rally in Montgomery attended by more than 15,000 people, including Alabama’s governor and attorney general, Judge Moore, Christian Coalition leader Ralph Reed and former GOP presidential candidate Alan Keyes.

Judge Price had been reelected to his third consecutive six-year term in 1996, and he clearly placed his promising political future in jeopardy by his unpopular decision.

Only a few months earlier, a prominent newspaper editorialized that Governor Fob James should appoint him to fill a vacancy as state attorney general. Now the governor was threatening to call out the National Guard to prevent Judge Price’s order from being carried out. The order has been stayed pending appeal to the Alabama State Supreme Court.

The Profile in Courage Award honors public officials who have withstood strong opposition from constituents and powerful interest groups to follow what they believe is the right course of action. The award takes its name from President Kennedy’s 1957 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, Profiles in Courage.
Corps Members Meet General Powell

Members of the JFK Library Corps met with General Colin Powell at a May 31 press conference announcing The Massachusetts Summit: The Promise of Our Youth. The summit will foster an expanded commitment to volunteer service by the state’s businesses, nonprofits, local communities and citizens. It is modeled after a national initiative to increase volunteerism among youth, unveiled by President Clinton, former Presidents Carter and Bush, and General Powell earlier this year in Philadelphia.

In the photo at right, General Powell autographs the T-shirt of Corps member Femi Gay. A student at Boston Latin School, Femi has been a member for three years. Asked her reaction to meeting General Powell, Femi said: “I was very fortunate to have an opportunity to meet such an honorable man, a man who felt it was important to unite youth throughout Massachusetts and to celebrate their will to do community service. That, to me, is definitely an act of someone who cares.”

UN Secretary General Remembers JFK

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan visited the Library in June to attend a luncheon in his honor hosted by the Foundation and the United Nations Association of Greater Boston.

Secretary General Annan meets with students from St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Dover, New Hampshire, while touring the Museum.

In his remarks, Mr. Annan recalled President Kennedy’s vision and support for the United Nations as the world’s “last best hope in an age when the instruments of war have far outpaced the instruments of peace.” He affirmed his own commitment to support the liberty and prosperity of all nations while fighting to eradicate poverty and war.

The secretary general announced plans to reform the United Nations. He stated his proposed changes would result in a United Nations more capable of meeting the challenges of the next century.

During his visit, Mr. Annan toured the Museum and met with students from area high schools.

The Secretary General and Mrs. Annan (second from left) with students from the Newton (MA) North High School Model United Nations Club.
Fall Calendar

Public Programs
The fall schedule is being finalized as the newsletter goes to press. Please confirm dates and times by referring to the fall calendar to be mailed in early September or by calling the Education Department at 617-929-4554.

September
“Liberty and Limits - The Federalist Idea Two Hundred Years Later”: A series of early evening discussions based on the spring 1997 PBS production of the same title and on The Federalist Papers. Limited to 35 participants. For schedule and information, call John Stewart at 617-929-4553.

October 7, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.
Pauline Maier, author of American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence

October 12, Sunday, 2:00 p.m.
Stephen Thernstrom and Abigail Thernstrom, authors of America in Black and White: One Nation, Indivisible

October 14, Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.
“Generational Perspectives on Social Security: Is the Conflict Between Young and Old Real or Imagined?” (Sponsored with the New Frontier Society)

October 18, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.
“Women in Public Life: Past Perspectives, Future Challenges”

October 19, Sunday, 2:00 p.m.
“Edward Everett, the Other Speaker at Gettysburg, Little Noted, Not Long Remembered”

October 22, Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.
An Evening with Archibald Cox: Harvard Law Professor, Solicitor General, Watergate Special Prosecutor and Distinguished Citizen

October 28, Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.

November 2, Sunday, 2:00 p.m
“New England Town Meeting on Land Mines”

November 11, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.
Michael Beschloss, author of Taking Charge: The Johnson White House Tapes, 1963-1964

November 16, Sunday, 2:00 p.m.
Doris Kearns Goodwin, author of Wait Till Next Year: Summer Afternoons with My Father and Baseball

November 18, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.
Annual public forum sponsored by the Kennedy Library and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay

New Frontier Society
Programs for individuals ages 21 to 35. For further information, please call Michelle Kane Forster, 617-929-4548.

September 17, Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.
Special viewing of new exhibits on Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy

Members’ Events
September 18, Thursday, 5:45 p.m.
“The Religious Issue in the 1960 Campaign”: Lecture and discussion by Kennedy Library historian Sheldon Stern. For further information, please call Aaron Sherer, 617-436-9986 ext. 11.

Children’s Hour
Morning programs for children and their families. Reservations not required. For information, please call 617-929-4523.

November 22, Saturday, 10:30 a.m.
“Be A Storyteller” Performance by Tom McCabe

December 13, Saturday, 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
“The Nutcracker” Performances by the Bennington Marionettes

Museum Hours
Daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Thanksgiving,
Christmas, and New Year’s Day

The John F. Kennedy Library Newsletter is published by the Kennedy Library Foundation. Tax deductible donations and bequests may be made to the Kennedy Library Foundation, Boston, MA 02125

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Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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